

Margaret Newmeli



Ryan

Noah

Alan

Zach

Another Dimension The Ultimate Amalgam 2021

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DEDICATION

This is dedicated to the people featuring in *Another Dimension* and to all cartoons, anime, manga, comics' heroes and their creators, writers, designers, developers, directors and their teams. These heroes are my dream and ever since I saw them as a kid, my desire has been to know them, and be their friend. I love them – this is how I know they are. The first phase of the project Another Dimension is the novels. *Another Dimension: The Ultimate Amalgam* is the beginning of this wonderful story. It continues in *Another Dimension Worlds Collide*. The aspiration of this adventure is *Another Dimension, the Animated Movies*.

To Jesus Christ, Agape, Dream of every heart.

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

Special thanks to all the people who appear in this book; their creators, designers, writers, directors, editors and all their teams.

Thanks for sharing your talents with the world. I thank Raphael and Helene for their love and assistance, and my brothers and sisters, nieces and nephews. I thank my relatives, friends, readers, the people I know and every man, woman, boy, girl, child in the world, especially all those who helped me in this project. I acknowledge Dr. Shawn Smith and his teachings on the grace of Christ in the Gospel.

Blessed is the Father who has realized His dream by incorporating every man into the Son, even Jesus Christ our Lord, Saviour of the World.

Thank you for reading me.

PRELUDE: ALAN, NOAH, ZACH AND RYAN

¹ In the city of Aven there lived four teens who were the best friends in the world. They were exceptional as a result of their extravagant dreams. Alan's passion was the stars and space travel, Noah longed to meet her superheroes, Zach wanted to challenge the strongest man in the world and Ryan desired to see Agape face-to-face. These children of modern times were all on to hi-tech, science fiction, space, martial arts, comics and cartoons. They spent their time, talents and savings on these things, which also meant starving at school. They lived in the same neighbourhood, attended the same school and were everywhere together. They used to gather at night on the roof of Alan's house to talk about fantastic adventures. As they gazed at the stars, they believed earnestly and waited patiently for the fulfilment of their dreams.

The shuttle RM XIX was launching from that city to space. As the four friends talked about it every day, Noah came up with an idea. She proposed that they sneak into the ship and hide there until it took off. They all agreed to this, as it was their only chance of getting to space. They began to gather information about RM XIX and the astronomy base. They packed their things and prepared for the trip. Alan's father was working at the astronomy centre so Alan got four air bottles from there. Noah brought provisions while Zach and Ryan drew up a plan. Dressed in special space suits, the children secretly broke into the astronomy base and entered the spaceship a few hours before takeoff. No door resisted the smart Ryan, and so the four friends found themselves in the third compartment of the spaceship at countdown. Full of expectation, they waited quietly for zero hour. RM XIX subsequently took off and the children headed for space.

The children sat silently in the third compartment until the vessel moved out of Earth's atmosphere and became steady in outer space. After minutes of anticipation, they stood up and looked out of the window. Then they got the best of it. Alan, Noah, Ryan and Zach rejoiced as they

¹ This is the beginning of the *Another Dimension* series. References at the end.

gazed in wonder at the mystery of space. And what a marvel it was to them!

They made a mistake though. They didn't inquire about the shuttle's stages of movement. RM XIX's mission was to provide space station E27 with materials for construction. It never had to take a straightforward course. It had to detour along the way, moving first towards Jupiter and then coming back to the space station. What our friends didn't know was that the compartment in which they were would be cut off during the turn. Indeed, near Jupiter, the small compartment was disconnected from the main vessel and drifted alone into unknown space. The children suddenly panicked and feared that all was lost. But Ryan reassured his friends and they were strengthened to face this situation courageously.

Noah: "At least we've seen space, and we all agreed to accept the consequences of our action."

Alan: "This is epic! We're presently living our dreams. I don't know about you, guys but this is the best end for me. I've reached where I've always wanted to be."

Zach: "Don't talk of end when we're only at the beginning. I feel something even bigger will happen to us."

Ryan: "We used to look at the sky when we bless Him. It's now or never, guys. Let's put our faith to work."

Noah: "Saying it is easy, but how do we do it?"

Ryan: "By imagining and declaring what we want to happen and being certain of the outcome. We only need faith alone in Him alone."

Alan: "I knew this journey was going to be extraordinary. I'm ready, so let's get started."

The children put on their helmets, held their hands and closed their eyes with total confidence. As they were communing, a small meteor advanced straight ahead at high speed, and hit the capsule forcefully. The impact was great it tore open the capsule, projecting the children into outer space. They managed to hold their hands once again, and formed a circle in space. The children were smiling widely at each other for they were living there what they used to talk about every night - floating in space. While

they were in that position, savouring the uniqueness of the moment, a bright light flashed at a distance and moved gradually in their direction. They stayed calm and pressed each other's hands while gazing at the approaching brightness. It caught them eventually and the luminosity engulfed them, driving them into oblivion.

The unpleasant sensation of water splashed on a sleeper's face woke them out of coma. They got up and noticed that their space suits were gone and they were in their normal clothes. Looking around, they saw a field, large and beautiful with magnificent scenery in the background. They knew it wasn't Earth yet something still looked familiar. On turning around, they trembled as they identified the one standing behind them as...

1 MEETING DENVER AND FRIENDS

Denver,² the Last Dinosaur, and his friends were playing in the fields. They lost their ball and Denver went looking for it. He found four strange children lying on the other side of the field. He was terrified at first since it was the first time he was seeing this kind of people. He drew near and looking closely, noticed that they were unconscious. He went to the nearby creek and carrying water in his mouth, splashed it on their faces. The four Earthlings awoke and marvelled to see Denver standing before them.

Alan: “Wow! Is this your dream, Noah? Fascinating! Denver looks almost real.”

Ryan: “Why are we all in your dream?”

Zach: “Maybe we should close our eyes and everything will return to normal when we open them again.”

Zach and Alan closed their eyes hard to verify if they were dreaming or not. But Noah wouldn't let them ruin this miraculous encounter.

Noah: “Guys, our dreams have come true. Remember the dazzling light, floating in space, our hope and the certainty of the outcome? This really is Denver, the last dinosaur.”

Meanwhile, Denver had taken some steps back and hid himself behind a tree because of the strange attitude of the Earthlings. Noah put aside all fear because she wanted what she saw. She walked confidently towards the green dinosaur and greeted.

Noah: “Hello Denver. I am Noah and I would like to be your friend. My buddies here are Ryan, Zach and Alan. We're from Earth and are thrilled to meet you.”

Noah offered her hand and Denver, a little suspicious at first, soon carried her in his arms and kissed her.

Noah: “Come on, guys; what are you waiting for?”

²*Denver, The Last Dinosaur* is a cartoon originally released by World Events Productions (1988) featuring Denver, the dinosaur, with Mario, Wally, Shades, Jeremy and Casey.

The others wondered at what appeared to be their crossing over to a different reality.

Alan: "Hey, Noah is right. He has fulfilled our dream. I think we've traversed into another dimension."

Zach: "Into Noah's dimension, you mean. I didn't know she loved that dinosaur so much. He would grant her that wish."

Alan: "This is wild. It's Denver as we know him in the cartoon. The guys back home are totally not going to believe when we tell them this."

Ryan: "We four have seen it and it's enough for the whole world to believe."

Zach: "Look at him playing with Noah. He's friendly, as in the show."

Alan: "I've met a dinosaur as I've always wanted and Denver the cartoon dinosaur on top of that. Gigantic! This is what I mean."

They all moved to Denver and he carried them in turns, licking each of them as he used to do. After these affectionate greetings, Denver spoke to them with gestures and words hard to understand and they perceived he wanted them to follow him. They did the same and he took them to his companions - Mario, Wally, Shades and Jeremy.

Ryan: "Well, what do you know? You may as well meet some people you never liked in the series."

Denver's companions, Mario and Shades, didn't take any liking to their dinosaur's new friends either. They walked straight to Denver and put him under interrogation.

Mario: "Who are these clowns, Denver?"

Shades: "And where are they from?"

Mario: "And we want clear answers. No jesting."

Denver introduced the Earthlings to his companions and tried to make them understand his new friends were going to stay with them.

Mario: "Are you insane? We don't own our own villa yet to house these aliens. But that's not even the issue. The issue

is I don't like their faces and they're definitely not coming with us. End of the matter."

Shades: "Yeah. Full stop, period, conclusion and sealed. We're not coming back to this."

The attitude of Mario and Shades surprised the Earthlings; the two looked less sociable than they knew them. The Earthlings tried to explain their situation further, hoping to change the minds of these two, but Mario and Shades wouldn't listen to anything. They maintained their stand until Denver got angry for he too wouldn't let Noah go. There went the dispute between the green dinosaur and his two friends. Then Zach spoke out.

Zach: "We wouldn't like to bother you either, but we have no choice. We come from Aven of planet Earth and it's Agape who brought us here. We were travelling in space when a light shone and covered us. We woke up and found ourselves in this place. We don't know if this is another part of Earth or a different planet altogether. Please, let us come with you and find how to get back home. What do you say, Jeremy?"

Jeremy: "You know my name? Your story baffles me. Well, Wally; they're in a strait."

Wally: "Since they don't know how to return to their world, why not keep them with us the time we find a solution?"

Mario: "Where do you brains want to keep them? Certainly not in your house, Wally! You already have difficulties keeping Denver; how are you going to manage these four? What if your parents see them and find out at the same time that Denver still lives in their house? All our efforts to hide it from them would prove useless. Our dinosaur will be taken away and exposed to the Wild Wild South. This is the worst-case scenario ever. It's too nightmarish to picture. Noooooo."

Wally: "Wake up, Mario; you know none of what you just described will happen. Let's first get to the city and then we'll figure out what to do."

Jeremy: "Welcome to Nootra, Alan, Noah, Zach, Ryan. Here are the outskirts of the West Side of our city. We've

never heard of the planet you mentioned, but we'd love to know your world. Don't worry; many have studied space and teleportation in our city. If you're lucky, they'll help you get back home. Sure, you look strange. We've never seen people like you before though there are many races in this galaxy."

Shades: "Hey, brainiacs; how are you going to get these extra-Nootrans into the city? Remember the recent events. The bat guards the doors day and night, even though he pretends to do so only under the sun. He won't let any aliens in."

Mario: "Why worry, Shades; super Mario has the solution to every problem. Let's tell the big guy they're the children of our ancestors who have been lost in the woods for a long time, as the legend says."

Jeremy: "It won't work, Mario; at least not on the bat. And legend often means a story that never happened exactly as it is told."

Wally: "I've got an idea, though it may sound dishonest in a sense. Our football champions are out of town for their training. Why not disguise these guys as them?"

Jeremy: "Brilliant, Wally. I think I can do it. I need tools from Casey's super bag; then I'll camouflage them like a pro."

Jeremy went to work and his companions helped him. The trick was done after two hours of hi-tech plastic surgery. Ryan was transformed into Papan, Noah became Benjamin, Zach turned into Cesare and Alan was the clone of Yann.³ The four Earthlings looked exactly like Papan, Benjamin, Cesare and Yann.

Alan: "Incredible! How did you do that?"

Shades: "Jeremy is the smart one here; he can do anything. Not like the sluggard over there who calls himself 'super'."

Mario: "I think I heard Shades speaking about himself."

³ Papan, Benjamin, Cesare and Yann appear in *l'Ecole des Champions (Moero! Top Striker)*. According to Studio Animage, it is a French production, directed by Ryô Yasumura and Thibaut Chatel (TF1, Nov. 1992).

Batman⁴ was standing on the city gates and he greeted the children as they approached the metropolis.

⁴ Batman (Bruce Wayne, the Dark Knight, the World's Greatest Detective) was created by artist Bob Kane and writer Bill Finger. He first appeared in *Detective Comics* #27 (May 1939), and since then has appeared primarily in DC Comics.

2 EARTHLINGS IN NOOTRA

Zach, Ryan, Alan and Noah secretly embarked on a risky journey aboard the RM XIX shuttle, which left Earth and their home city Aven for space. They were happy to live one of their biggest dreams, as they found themselves out of Earth's gravitational force field. But an accident occurred on the way that threw them off the shuttle into outer space. They were supernaturally transported to a world where they met Denver, the Last Dinosaur, and his companions, Wally, Shades, Jeremy and Mario. These lived in a city called Nootra. After agreeing to help them, Denver and his friends were in a strait. They didn't know how to get the Earthlings into the city without a certain bat uncovering them as intruders. Wally suggested that the Earthlings be masked as four teenaged Nootra footballers. Thus Noah was disguised as Benjamin, Zach as Cesare, Alan as Yann and Ryan as Papan.

The four Earthlings, led by Denver, Mario, Wally, Shades and Jeremy walked towards the west gates of Nootra. As they approached, they sighted the shadow of the Dark Knight who, surprisingly, was guarding the city during the day. The Earthlings couldn't contain their excitement upon recognizing Batman from afar. He looked calm, serious and meditative.

Zach: "So the bat you were referring to was actually Batman? Guys, this really is the world of cartoons."

Ryan: "If only his designers could see this! They didn't know they were giving life to someone when they conceived him."

Noah: "He's big and sturdy. The real Batman is even more imperial than he has been presented on Earth."

Alan: "It seems he still has that flaw. I had hoped he would be less sinister in another world."

Ryan: "Always as cold and distant as we know him."

Zach: "Not as we know him, Ryan. What is he doing here in broad daylight at the sight of everyone? Batman used to appear only at night like all bats do."

Wally: "Hey, the Dark Knight is making a lot of efforts here. He's trying to win the trust of people. They used to doubt him because of his ways some term 'weird'. He chose to work during the day to socialize with citizens. People can now talk to him without fear."

Jeremy: "He'll need time to get used to this new life. He still remains mysterious to many though he's doing his best to please everyone."

Alan: "Tell me about it. I can feel a coldness coming from him even at this distance. If I had the chance, I would tell him one or two things that would erase that proud look from his face. That guy thinks he knows everything and doesn't want to fellowship with his friends."

Shades: "Calm down, dude. What's the big deal? Why are you so agitated because of him?"

Mario: "Hahaha. Like the other big guy, you too have an issue with him, right?"

Zach: "Batman is one of Alan's favourites, but he can't stand his ways."

Alan: "Zach, first of all, he's not my favourite and secondly, you didn't have to say that in front of everybody."

Mario: "Now we're getting close. Try not to look at him."

Noah: "I meet Batman and you tell me not to look at him? Impossible!"

Jeremy: "Try to behave like the people you're wearing. Some have nothing you will call 'tender' in them. If you act otherwise, Batman will unmask you and you'll be arrested."

Shades: "Nice work, Jeremy. Of all people in Nootra, you had to choose the images of those hot-tempered guys to camouflage the aliens with."

Jeremy: "It's because they're the only ones out of town at this hour. These guys have the same shape and height as them. I wanted to do something convincing, not just anything the Dark Knight would uncover from afar. Remember; he's also a detective."

Wally: "It'll work, Shades. Earthlings, just try to be normal if you can't mimic the players. I think there'll be no

problem since Batman himself doesn't want any clash with citizens."

Batman was standing on top of the gates with arms folded and he looked at the nine children as they approached. Fixing his eyes on them, he lifted up a hand and waved at them from afar. He opened the gates and raised his white eyes to the sky. He was admiring some birds that had first rested on his shoulders that also flew away when he moved.

Noah: "He's awesome, majestic. Oh, my, he's..."

Mario: "Too common. Come on; it's only Batman. He's posted here every day doing nothing."

Zach: "Only Batman? Man, Batman is the coolest superhero of all-time."

When Zach, Noah, Alan and Ryan came in proximity to the hero, they didn't stop looking at him. Noah was almost out of control on crossing him, but Denver warned her to keep her cool. The Earthlings were so excited about Batman, which attitude surprised the Nootrans. These whispered to each other on seeing the unrestrained keenness of their new friends for the caped hero.

Shades: "They'll cause everything to fail."

Wally (whispers to the Earthlings): "Snap out of it, guys. Batman is no amateur."

They had barely crossed the gates when Batman, who had remained silent throughout, made a remark while keeping his eyes on the birds.

Batman: "What in Nootra have Benjamin and his teammates got to do with the Green Dino Band?"

The children panicked and opened mouths and eyes wide, looking at each other. They quickly covered their mouths with their hands, lest any suspicious sound should come out and betray them. Shades didn't waste time to find some devious answer for the hero.

Shades: "We're in the final so we've taken a liking for football lately. Our champions here were kind enough to give us some lessons. Bats, don't you see our football? Denver, a little demonstration for our hero."

Denver played with the ball and they all laughed, as if what he was doing was funny. As they continued on their way, Batman, who now had his eyes on them, wondered aloud.

Batman: "This also is strange. How can Cesare be nice? I don't remember ever seeing you smile, except after scoring a goal, and even then..."

Now that his eyes were on them, it was their hearts that trembled. It was Mario's turn to trick the Dark Knight. He gave some mild slaps on the back of the pseudo-Cesare as he answered the inquisitor.

Mario: "Well, what do you know? Cesare finally understood that friendship was worth more than anything, isn't it, buddy?"

Zach didn't like the ways of Mario so he stopped him before he did something silly.

Zach: "Keep your hand to yourself."

When they thought they had gotten rid of him, Batman called out.

Batman: "And how is it possible for Papan to be quiet? Who ever thought you would keep that mouth shut someday?"

Ryan didn't panic, but found some words the real Papan would almost certainly use to respond to what was said about his personality.

Ryan: "Well, Mister, don't think you know everything about people. I might talk a lot, but I know how to keep quiet when I should. For a silencer, you talk too much, batty."

The Earthlings and their new friends outwitted Batman and crossed the city gates. They all breathed a sigh of relief on accessing the city. Being far away from Batman's sight and hearing, they could now unveil their indignation to one another. Mario was particularly outraged at the way Zach reacted when he did his trick.

Mario: "What's your problem, punk? You nearly caused our plan to fail."

Zach: "Sorry, Mario, but you shouldn't have gone too far."

Mario: "What do you mean 'gone too far'?"

Shades: "Batman would have unmasked us if it wasn't for sheer luck. He's a professional."

Zach: "Professional? The whole thing stank and you call him a professional? This Batman of yours is nothing of the one I know."

Alan: "He's imposing all right, but definitely as blind as a bat."

Noah too was displeased with the way Ryan addressed Batman. According to her, those were not the words to use in their first encounter with him.

Noah: "Batty? For heaven's sake, Ryan, what was that? I can't believe you answered Batman so rudely. Did you forget he's one of my favourites and that of Alan as well?"

Alan: "Keep me out of it. I enjoyed seeing us outsmart him. Who said he was the smartest brain in the world?"

Ryan: "I had to play the game, Noah. Papan would be anything, except polite."

Noah: "What do you know about it? They may not be the same as in the cartoons."

Jeremy: "What's this whole issue of cartoons? Who are these cartoons?"

Alan: "Cartoons and comics are series of drawings, which people use to make stories. We know all of you on Earth because people draw your images and give you your traits and peculiarities. We know that Jeremy is smart, that Wally loves animals, that Mario highly esteems himself and that Shades, well, Shades is just Shades."

Mario: "Hey, that's not true. Your cartoonists know nothing about me."

Shades: "I'm just me and that suits me perfectly. Earth has faithfully represented me."

Wally: "Unbelievable! You mean they know us on Earth and we're famous? That I'm a celebrity there?"

Alan: "You can say so. You five are the protagonists of an animated show, Denver, the Last Dinosaur."

Wally: “Why is Denver the last dinosaur? What was the motivation for giving such a title to that show?”

Zach: “Dinosaurs are extinct on Earth. Wait a minute; you mean dinosaurs are here?”

Jeremy: “If Denver is here, it goes without saying dinosaurs are here. Dinosaurs have their habitat in the Wild of South Nootra.”

Noah: “How do you live with them? They’re supposed to be dangerous.”

Jeremy: “Not all dinosaurs are dangerous. You only have to look at Denver to know that. I wonder what happened on Earth for a species to be extinct.”

Noah: “Dinosaurs were extinct even before a man lived on Earth. But Earth isn’t worried about extinct species. We’re doing everything to preserve some endangered ones.”

Wally: “It would be horrible if a species disappeared. I hope you succeed in preserving your wildlife. They’re essential for the wellbeing of the natural environment.”

Shades: “Let’s leave wildlife aside and come back to this story of cartoons. One thing I don’t understand. How can your writers know things about us when they’ve never met us?”

Jeremy: “Can there be some sort of psychic connection between your world and ours so that the people there conceive us exactly as we are?”

Ryan: “That would be intriguing. Well, although many people know you on Earth, they doubt you exist for real.”

Mario: “Now listen to their tall tale; taking us for drawings, comics; people giving us our qualities and personalities, and what else? We should better hand them over to Batman and the city forces.”

Shades: “Yeah; their story sounds like a pack of lies.”

These remarks enraged Denver and he roared against Mario and Shades, who quickly apologized.

Mario: “Sorry, sorry. Forget everything we just said.”

As the young Nootrans and their new friends advanced further in the city, they faced another difficulty on the way.

Alan: “Hey, guys look; it’s Hawkeye.⁵ Boy, this world is beyond all reasoning.”

Ryan: “I see empiricists who will have to give up their concept.”

Wally: “Disaster number two. Hawkeye is an agent of NSF and his daughter Rain is a fan of Benjamin.”

Shades: “Listen now, Earthies; don’t act overexcited as you did with Batman earlier. Noah, it’s time you put on the character of Benjamin.”

Hawkeye was on leave and he was spending the day with his little daughter who was disguised as Rain. Rain was fond of Nootra’s Wings football team and on sighting Benjamin, she ran to him and asked for an autograph. Hawkeye also came near and greeted the children.

Hawkeye: “Hello champions. My daughter and I were in the stadium last night. You were fantastic.”

Noah (whispers to Jeremy): “What’s he talking about?”

Jeremy (whispers to Noah): “Yesterday were the semi-finals of the Nootra Tournament. The team of Benjamin, Nootra’s Wings, won and Benjamin scored two goals.”

Based on this information, Noah answered Hawkeye confidently.

Noah: “Thanks, archer. It was no big deal. You know, I’m Benjamin and I score goals. Yes, yesterday I scored two. That was pretty cool, huh?”

Rain took a photo of Benjamin out of her sack and asked Noah to sign it. Noah first panicked, but she quickly pulled herself together. She signed something and gave back to Rain her belongings.

Rain: “‘Blessed with all blessings in Him, Benjamin’? This is not your signature. I have several images you have signed. What’s this autograph?”

⁵ Hawkeye (Clint Barton) of Marvel Comics was created by Stan Lee and Don Heck. He first appeared as a villain in *Tales of Suspense* #57 (Sept. 1964) and later joined the Avengers in *Avengers* #16 (May 1965). Eric appears in *l'Ecole des Champions*.

Noah: "I changed my signature yesterday night. You must be flexible, kid. Don't dwell on one thing. We're going to win the final, right?"

Rain: "What happened to your voice, Benjamin?"

Noah: "Papan forced me to drink some unhealthy juice this morning and it affected my voice."

Rain started to play with the ball she had in her hands. Noah, who knew nothing about controlling a football, sensed a sweat drop from her face.

Rain: "Hehhehheh. Your second goal was terrific, Benjamin. Can you show me how you did it?"

Noah: "Under no circumstances, little girl. It's my secret shot and nobody has to copy it."

Rain: "Then let's play together for a while."

Noah: "I'm tired. I'm just from training, you know. Why don't you go get an ice-cream over there?"

Rain: "Are you sure you're Benjamin? Benjamin never turns down a football game. You're a counterfeit. Dad, this is not Benjamin. He doesn't have his signature, he doesn't want to play with me and his voice is weird."

Rain had trampled Noah's foot hard before going to cry to her dad. The children feared they were found out, but Hawkeye took those remarks as a child's tantrum.

Hawkeye: "Rain, Benjamin is really tired here. Understand that he can't play with you today. He'll do so after the final. Ben, sorry for my daughter's naughtiness. Well, champions, good luck for the final."

Hawkeye left with his daughter and the children were glad they escaped it, though narrowly. They continued their walk in the city and as they penetrated the town from the West, the Earthlings were seized by the unparalleled beauty of Nootra.

Noah: "The city of Nootra is as beautiful as those beautiful places we only see in cartoons. This is the place I've always wanted to be."

Wally: "It's true this city is unique in several aspects. Nootra is a land where city and village converge; where

the calm and the lively go together. It's a mixture of different structures. Everyone would find their taste here."

Jeremy: "Nootra has a large number of neighbourhoods, each with its own specific features. Some are highly advanced, others are mere villages with fields and farms; some are peaceful and quiet, others are noisy and heated. Each neighbourhood is open to everyone."

Shades: "I'm proud to belong here. This is the best place in the world."

Alan: "Yeah Shades; Nootra is literally a dreamland."

Unfortunately, the Earthlings couldn't contemplate the city any longer for they were faced with another problem. As they were moving along the road, they bumped into the real Cesare and Yann.

Mario: "Disaster number three. There's a storm brewing."

Cesare and Yann turned furious on sighting their clones coming in the opposite direction. They stopped them on the spot and required an explanation.

Yann: "What's going on here, Wally? Who are these people and why did you disguise them as us?"

Cesare was in no mood to hear any explaining. He walked straight to Zach, the pseudo-Cesare, to fight him.

Cesare: "I don't care who they are and if there's one thing I don't tolerate, it's people playing ridiculous with my image."

Wally: "Wait, Cesare; it's not what you think. We have a good reason for doing this."

Cesare: "Keep your good reason to yourselves, Wally and his sorry band. That's not going to work with me."

Zach: "That's also fine with me. I've always wanted to get that arrogance out of you. When you taste my fists, then you'll learn a lesson, pal."

Cesare: "I'm not your pal. I'm the best football player of this city. Eric will have to admit that sooner or later for it is I who will score the winning goal in the final. But before that, I would have dealt with you, impostor."

Denver tried to rescue Zach from the wrath of Cesare, but he had to stand back because of the fierce threats of the football player.

Cesare: "Stay out of this, Denver if you don't want any trouble; otherwise, you'll be the one to suffer my rage. I'm not at all impressed that you're a dinosaur. You don't know what I'm capable of. I might tell Wally's parents that he's still keeping you."

Jeremy: "No, you won't do that, Cesare. I forbid you from doing such a thing."

Cesare: "So you're the instigator of all this, Jeremy? It serves you right."

Mario tried to hold back Cesare and dissuade him from executing the horrible threats he made.

Mario: "Whoa, whoa, whoa. Why are you always so angry? Do you have to take everything so seriously? We're not in a football match as far as I know. Yann, get him to listen to reason."

Yann: "Not this time, Mario; you guys have gone too far. There's no reason using us for your silly jokes. It's not because you can transform people into others that you'll use our images for that."

Shades: "Stand down, men; what's the issue? You can settle scores with your clones another day. We're here on a secret mission from Captain Nootra himself. You won't stand in his way, will you?"

Cesare: "Your lies are as hopeless as the players of the East Side we thrashed yesterday. Even if it did come from your Captain, he should know better than to use me for his ridiculous caricature. This minion here will pay for his insolence."

Zach: "I would apologize if I were you, Cesare. Zach won't take any more insults from your pathetic self devoid of all honour."

Cesare: "So little Zachary has got vocabulary. Let's settle this here and now."

Zach: "My pleasure. If I beat you, you leave Denver and his friends alone. Got me?"

Cesare: "You'll have to beat me first and I doubt you can. And you're not the one to set the rules in the first place, but I'll abide by them 'cause you're going to lose."

Zach: "It's you who say so, Cesare, but I'll prove the contrary."

As Cesare and Zach were preparing to fight each other, Yann walked to Alan, the pseudo-Yann, to sort him out.

Alan: "Cool down, dude. I can't fight you back."

Yann: "You should have thought about that when you disguised yourself as me. Now it's too late."

Alan: "I'm not trying to avoid fighting you, Yann; you'll have an opponent. I ask my champion to fight in my place."

Ryan stepped in as Alan's substitute.

Yann: "It's him your champion? You should have chosen someone heftier."

Ryan: "Yann, I used to think you were smarter, but I see hanging out with Cesare has made you as mean as him. If you want to fight, I'm your man."

Without saying any more words, Yann released his grip on Alan and went for Ryan. Noah watched the scene and deplored the unfolding of things. She shouted at her companions to stop them from fighting her favourite footballers.

Noah: "What are you doing? You'll only get us into more trouble. Stop them, Alan."

Alan: "Why would I do such a thing? You can't come to cartoon world and not fight. I'm excited to see those two take a hammering from my pals. Noah, you'll see it wasn't for nothing they spent their time training."

Noah: "Alan? Zach, Ryan: don't hurt Cesare and Yann."

Jeremy: "Hurt Cesare and Yann? Was that some kind of irony? Cesare and Yann may be footballers, but they're very strong. Even Saiyans⁶ are afraid of them."

⁶ Saiyans are a warrior race in *Dragon Ball*, a manga series written and illustrated by Akira Toriyama. It was originally serialized in *Weekly Shōnen Jump* (1984 - 1995) with the 519 individual chapters published into 42 tankōbon volumes by Shueisha.

Noah: “Wait; did you just say Saiyans?”

3 CLASHES IN THE STREETS

Noah, Alan, Zach and Ryan left their home planet Earth aboard a space shuttle launched from Aven, their hometown. Once in space, the children were victims of an accident and they were thrown out of the shuttle into outer space. They, however, reached a dimension, which proved to be the fulfilment of their dreams. There, they made the discovery of the century - the people featuring as characters in comics and cartoons exist. The first person they met in Nootra, city of superheroes, was Denver, the Last Dinosaur. Denver and his companions, Wally, Shades, Jeremy and Mario, agreed to help them find their way back home. The Green Dino Band disguised the Earthlings as four football players of Nootra. Zach was cloned as Cesare, Alan as Yann, Noah as Benjamin and Ryan as Papan. And so they outsmarted the vigilante Batman and entered the city.

Although nearly unmasked by Hawkeye and his daughter Rain, things rather went well for them and they visited some neighbourhoods of Westside Nootra. They had real trouble when the real Cesare and Yann met them on the streets. These were angry that their images were used for the cloning. Cesare and Yann opposed Zach and Ryan and wanted to fight them. Noah watched the unfortunate scene and was sorry. Her friends were about to fight her football heroes. Now, a few minutes before this scene took place, the real Benjamin and the real Papan with Eric, Lucas, Roberto, Bruno, Ach, Voltz and other teammates of Nootra's Wings were going back to the city after their training. They reached the city gates and thought of teasing Batman to chase the seriousness away from him.

Ach: "Hello bat head; what's up? Are you still at this boring thing you call a job?"

Lucas: "I wouldn't want to be in your place. You stand here for hours doing nothing while we're having all the fun. You should come play with us sometimes."

Batman: "How can your training be fun? You're in the final and you shouldn't take it lightly, children."

Benjamin: “We’re only doing the work we love, that’s why it’s so much fun. We want you to join us at our next session.”

Voltz: “Can Batman play football? Superheroes are hopeless when it comes to playing football.”

Bruno: “They may be superheroes, but they stand no chance against me when I’m controlling a ball.”

Batman: “Don’t underestimate me, children. There are a lot of things I can do. I used to play with some good old friends when I was your age.”

Roberto: “Batman, a kid? You must be joking. I bet you he appeared in the world exactly as he is now.”

Voltz: “Yeah, because if ever he had been a child, it would be a Batkid or something; all dressed up in his batsuit ready to fight crime.”

Roberto: “Yeah; and he talked of friends. Who would want to be friends with a guy whose attitude drives everyone away?”

Bruno: “An unwelcoming aura, you mean.”

Eric: “That’s not true. Batman has many friends in the city. He’s in the Justice League⁷ and his teammates are his friends.”

Bruno: “The ‘just us league’, you meant.”

Ach: “What a team! It comprises only the mightiest among the mighty. They’re unbeatable, except for the uncertain.”

Batman: “And the uncertain always occurs, Ach. Thanks for taking my defence, Eric though having friends isn’t my priority. My main concern is to protect Nootra against any internal or external threat. The rest doesn’t matter.”

Benjamin: “I disagree with you there, Day Knight. The rest is what makes the former possible. You can’t protect the city if you don’t care about its people.”

Eric: “You mentioned some friends of yours. It’s obvious they’re the ones because of whom you’re a fighter. To me,

⁷ Lucas, Roberto, Bruno, Ach and Voltz appear in *l'Ecole des Champions*. The Justice League (JL) is a superhero team in DC Comics. It first appeared in *The Brave and the Bold* #28 (Feb/March 1960).

everything is worthless if it is not done out of love for people.”

Lucas: “Look at me, batty; I play football not only for myself, but for my friends as well. I used to play alone, but I wasn’t happy. It’s great fun when we play together as a team. You’re in the JL and you surely know what I’m talking about.”

Ach: “If you think Batman doesn’t know what friendship in a team is, then you’re one ignorant Nootran. The Caped Champion is the brain behind the Justice League and most of the teams of NSF.”

Papan interrupted the flow of discussion to suit his taste.

Papan: “You guys are too boring with all this reasoning. We won’t get anywhere if you keep talking so seriously.”

Roberto: “Papan has a point. Have you been with people who act as if everything was ‘don’t joke with this subject; it’s a delicate issue’?”

Voltz: “They’re boring to tears.”

Papan: “Check this one, guys. Batman looks like he hasn’t slept for days. He does have a nasty face there. Did you know he chose to be a bat so as to stay up late and his parents wouldn’t scold him for that? It doesn’t surprise me coming from him. Look; he’s almost drunk tired judging from his eyes. Bats, what do you mean staying up late again when you’re now working in the day?”

Batman: “Only you can make such comments, Papan. You can’t see my face; how can you say anything about my look?”

Eric: “Speaking of your look, Batman, if you want people to come any closer, try changing your costume. You won’t become popular dressed like that with those white eyes that scare many.”

Bruno: “It’s an outrage. My little brother had a nightmare after seeing you. NSF should know better than posting you here to frighten kids.”

Lucas: “Hahaha. Frighten troublemakers like your little brother. Slow down, boys; you’re too hard on the guy. I

think he's pretty cool as he is. Don't mind them, bats. I like your style and your costume is great. You're doing a good job, agent."

Benjamin: "I don't understand why you would rather guard the city during the day whereas you're ten times more efficient at night. You did it so well before you became the Bright Knight."

Batman: "It was only last month I stopped being the Dark Knight. Things have changed since then and I must adapt to the current situation."

Papan: "Don't bother trying to understand him, Benjamin. Everyone in Westside knows Batman spends the night partying with some strange company. That's why he's ineffective during the day. Listen to a friend's advice, bats; quit this job or someday someone will get hurt because of your lack of vigilance."

Batman: "Papan talks responsibility? Your advice must be in the reflexive mode. Wait a minute; didn't I hear you a few hours ago say something about keeping your mouth shut?"

Papan: "Me, silent? I'm so disappointed. I thought you knew me better than this, vigilante. I can't keep quiet as long as you have that grave look on your face. When you let your hair down, then I'll spare you."

Batman: "If it wasn't you, who then entered the city with Denver? Impostors!"

Papan: "You guys see what I was saying just now?"

Batman called Nootra Security Forces with his communicator immediately.

Batman: "Batman to J'onn:⁸ come in. I have a case of intruders here. They're four of them disguised as Benjamin, Papan, Cesare and Yann and they're with Denver and his four companions."

J'onn J'onzz (through comm.): "Copy that. I'm sending agents right away. J'onn out."

⁸ J'onn J'onzz, the Martian Manhunter, is a superhero in DC Comics. Created by Joseph Samachson and Joe Certa, he first appears in *Detective Comics* #225 (Nov. 1955).

J'onn J'onzz dispatched two heroes to apprehend the intruders. Once these received the coordinates, they left NSF Central and started the hunt. It took them only a few minutes to find the Earthlings whom Cesare and Yann blocked on the way. The agents landed and prevented Yann and Ryan, on the one hand, and Cesare and Zach, on the other, from fighting each other.

Noah: "Look up in the sky; it's Superman,⁹ the prototype superhero on Earth."

Alan: "You shouldn't be so excited about him, Noah. I fear his friend the bat realized his mistake and sent him here to arrest us."

Superman: "So you're intruders from Earth? Still, it's good to see that everybody knows me, even on Earth."

Captain Nootra: "What about me? I'm Captain Nootra yet everybody is only talking about Superman."

Cesare wasn't happy that the NSF agents had interfered in his affairs, and so he warned them.

Cesare: "No way, costumed men. You won't stop me from correcting this punk."

Captain Nootra: "O yes, we will. Kid, you can't take issues into your own hands. We're here for that."

Cesare: "Call me kid again and I'll smash you with my football."

Captain Nootra: "This is no way to talk to an elder and less of all to Captain Nootra. What have I done to deserve such scorn from my citizens?"

Mario: "Your shoes are a mess. If I were you, Cap, I'd get myself new ones."

Jeremy: "Stop provoking him, Mario; you'll only make him angrier."

Wally: "Or more depressed. Look; he's already complaining to Superman."

⁹ Superman (Kal-El, the Man of Steel) is a superhero in DC Comics. Created by writer Jerry Siegel and artist Joe Shuster (1932) and sold to Detective Comics, Inc. (1938), he first appeared in *Action Comics* #1 (June 1938).

Captain Nootra: "Is that true, Superman? And you didn't say anything about my shoes."

Superman: "There's nothing wrong with them. They're like mine, see? I can't believe you fall for every criticism."

Captain Nootra: "You can talk since you're Superman and no one criticizes you. Even people from an unknown planet have you as prototype superhero. But after we're done here, I'll have my designer make me new shoes."

Shades: "Don't change anything, Cap; Mario was only teasing. You're our guardian and we're proud of you. Can we go now with our friends?"

Cesare: "Not until I've finished with the impostor. Get out of my way, super freak."

Superman: "One doesn't need special faculties to see that you're the real Cesare. You and Yann will leave these children to us. They're henceforth in the custody of Nootra Security Forces."

Superman used a digital gear on the Earthlings and unmasked them. Once the children regained their real appearances, the agents immobilized their hands with some metallic gear. Denver and his companions tried to explain themselves, but the security agents wouldn't listen.

Captain Nootra: "Sorry, friends; I'm not keen on arresting children, but orders are orders, (aside) especially when they indirectly come from the bat. Rest assured though. Your buddies are coming back to you if they're found to be of no threat to Nootra."

Now it happened that before Superman and Captain Nootra took the Earthlings away, a sword stretched out of nowhere and shattered the four metallic objects fastening the Earthlings' hands. To the horror of the agents yet to the jubilation of the children, Trunks, the son of Vegeta the Saiyan, appeared. Superman and Captain Nootra then realized the odds had changed.

Wally: "Whoa. Trunks the Saiyan has come to the rescue."

Mario: "Things are beginning to get more interesting now."

Captain Nootra: "Trunks, you have no right to meddle here."

Superman: "When he has that look on his face, it tells me he won't listen to anyone. I'm expected at my mom's birthday party and I don't intend to waste time here. Cap, let's finish this fast."

Captain Nootra: "No. You don't want us to do it against Trunks? He's only a kid. And we seem to not be in harmony these last days."

Superman: "There are no arch super villains in the city. If we don't do it every time we fight, we'll never do it since you don't fight out of Nootra. Trust me, Cap; it's going to be fun."

Captain Nootra: "Okay."

Superman and Captain Nootra merged and the result was colossal. It was the creation of a mighty being, who had both the powers of Captain Nootra and Superman. What followed was a spectacular confrontation between Trunks and Super-Nootra.

Alan: "Huge! Fusion also exists here. I used to wonder how such a thing could be possible, but now I know."

Shades: "These men are crazy. Why do they merge their powers against an adversary like Trunks?"

Jeremy: "Superman spoke of a party he has to attend. He wouldn't waste time with Trunks that's why he wants to finish it fast."

Shades: "I heard what he said, Jeremy. What I meant is that Superman and Captain Nootra are grown-ups and each of them is superior to Trunks. Trunks is good, but they'll have him like a beginner."

Mario: "Nonsense Shades. Trunks can take down the two of them in a single round. You underestimate the power of Saiyans. These guys are born fighters."

Jeremy: "It's not logical, Mario. Trunks is no match for Super-Nootra."

Ryan: "The illogical becomes actuality when you believe. Our being here is illogical; cartoons existing is illogical. Trunks came to our rescue, let's give him a hand."

Shades: “You must be nuts thinking you can do a thing to Superman and Captain Nootra combined. It’s Super-Nootra we’re talking about.”

Ryan: “I believe for the manifestation of the impossible. None is invincible except one, and it is by faith in Him that I do everything. If we come together, with Denver’s strength, our determination and my faith, we’ll help Trunks out.”

Wally: “*Et comment.* I’ve always wanted to walk on Superman’s boot.”

Mario: “Quite ordinary, Wally; I’ve seen kids do that way too often. What would be something is to pinch the nose of Cap. O boy, I’m so going to enjoy this. What are we waiting for?”

Jeremy: “But Denver can’t stand violence.”

Zach: “Denver, we must rescue Trunks. We’re the good guys.”

Denver agreed to join his friends, but Noah was being reluctant.

Noah: “You want me to attack Superman? How could you possibly ask me to do such a thing? What if he hates me afterwards? He might be angry with me and I wouldn’t be able to live with that.”

Alan: “If your Superman is as heartless as this one, he doesn’t deserve your love.”

Noah: “That doesn’t matter. What matters is that I love him.”

Ryan: “All is settled then. You can attack him knowing you have a good reason for doing so, without worrying whether he might hate you or not.”

Zach: “What is important here, Noah? Is it that you’re convinced you’re right or what he might think about you?”

Noah: “Say no more, guys; I got your point. Everything my companions are on, I’m also game for it.”

Shades: “Here we go. Mission Nootra 4West N3S7. Objective: Rescue Trunks. Target: Super-Nootra. Time: 14H 75. Action: Everyone charge anyhow you can.”

Zach: “Everyone charge anyhow you can? That isn’t strategic, Shades. All the same: go, go, go.”

The Earthlings and their new friends were determined to help Trunks, but that wasn’t counting what Cesare and Yann had in mind. Before they took any action against Super-Nootra, Cesare and Yann outstripped them. These two were enraged because of Trunks and Super-Nootra’s intrusion in their intended fight against Zach and Ryan, and so they decided to teach a lesson to the heroes.

Cesare: “How mean! Why should these three prevent us from handling the usurpers?”

Yann: “Let’s show them they have no right to mess with us.”

Cesare and Yann had their footballs with them and each played with his ball and as they did so, the balls were filled with power. After taking a deep breath, Yann kicked his ball high in the air and used his right foot and Cesare used his left, to shoot Cesare’s ball together and violently at Super-Nootra. The ball became a fire mass and hit the superheroes head-on. Cesare’s ball put Super-Nootra down and when Trunks turned around to see what happened, he received Yann’s ball in the face. These violent shots knocked out the agents and Saiyan and they lost consciousness. The effect of the fusion ceased and Super-Nootra was gone. What remained was Superman and Captain Nootra caught in oblivion. Then Cesare and Yann fled and disappeared in the horizon.

Someone made his entrance when Super-Nootra and Trunks were down. The Shredder!¹⁰ He took advantage of the chaos in the streets to capture Denver. But the children couldn’t let this happen.

Noah, Wally: “Somebody save Denver!”

Zach: “Allow me. Friends, are you with me?”

Alan: “Count me in. Shredder will be a piece of cake.”

¹⁰ The Ninja Turtles Leonardo (Leo), Donatello (Donnie, Don), Michelangelo (Mikey), Raphael (Raph) are the protagonists of *Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles - TMNT*. The Shredder (Oruku Saki) is the Turtles’ main antagonist. *The Ninja Turtles* originated in a comic book by Kevin Eastman and Peter Laird (1984) by Mirage Studios. Bebop and Rocksteady appear in *TMNT*.

Mario: "Serve the same thing here, Alan."

Shades: "Let's crush Shredder and compensate for the loss of Super-Nootra."

Zach, Alan, Ryan, Mario, Shades, Jeremy and Wally attacked the Shredder. They all charged at him together, some with sticks in their hands. It was a bungle and no one saw whom he brawled. Shredder, however, sneaked out of the fray. He looked at them at a distance and burst out laughing. The children quickly realized they were fighting each other.

Shredder: "You kids think you can stop me? I am the Shredder. Why don't you go play with your toys before somebody gets hurt?"

Ryan: "The only one who will get hurt here is you, Shredder. Free Denver right away and we could think of sparing you."

Shredder: "Don't make me laugh again. Seriously, I have no time to play with kids."

Shredder had something with him - a soporific gas. He wore a mask, opened the bottle and tossed it in the direction of the children. The smoke drowsed the children and they subsequently fell into deep sleep. Shredder tied up Denver and forced him to walk to his vehicle. What the Shredder didn't know was that the Ninja Turtles were right behind him.

Raphael: "Hey shred head, how about facing someone your size?"

Shredder: "The Turtles! You won't dispossess me of my loot."

Leonardo: "What are you talking about? Denver isn't yours. Release him or we'll finish you this time around."

Shredder: "Seriously, Leonardo; do you think I'll listen to you when not even your brothers do? It's time you stopped giving me useless orders."

Leonardo: "Quit playing ugly if you don't want to be addressed as such. This is your last chance to surrender."

Michelangelo: "No one attacks my lovely green dino and goes unharmed."

Donatello: “Mikey, I thought it was the grey one your favourite.”

Raphael: “Never mind, Donnie. Whether it’s the red or the pink one, the good thing is there’s going to be some action in the air, and that’s just what I needed to get warmed up before the evening practice.”

Michelangelo: “And I know one who will get warmed down.”

Shredder: “I know only four who will be destroyed in the next minutes. Bebop, Rocksteady, wipe them out.”

Bebop and Rocksteady, two of Shredder’s mutants, stepped in and stood as the opponents of the Turtles.

Donatello: “He sends Bebop and Rocksteady to fight us? The Shredder is irretrievable. He should have known those two don’t weigh against us.”

Raphael: “Is it too much to ask that you have respect for your opponents and give us less worthless fighters? We’ll be done with two in no time and guess what; we’ll be coming for you, Saki.”

Shredder: “Joke as you wish since you love to. I’m letting go this dinosaur for nothing.”

Leonardo: “Enough talk. Show me what you have, villain.”

Raphael: “Well done, fearless leader. Shredder and Co., get ready to take a beating from the Ninja Turtles.”¹¹

¹¹ Trunks and Vegeta appear in *Dragon Ball* (1984-1997), *Dragon Ball Z* (1989-1996) and *Dragon Ball GT* (1996-1997). *Dragon Ball Z* or *DBZ* is a close adaptation of the second portion of the *Dragon Ball* manga written and drawn by Akira Toriyama. It is adapted from the final twenty-six volumes of the manga series. It premiered in Japan on Fuji Television (April 26, 1989) and ran for 291 episodes until its conclusion (Jan. 31, 1996). It was developed by Toei Animation and directed by Daisuke Nishio. Et comment: certainly, absolutely.

4 SAIYANS, NOOTRA AND ORIGINS

The unprecedented had happened. Noah, Ryan, Alan and Zach landed in a world where cartoons and comics' heroes exist. Nootra, the city of Denver, the dinosaur yet not the last in Nootra, proved to be the realization of their craziest dreams. They believed all things were possible, they loved beyond fear, their cause was just, and so they were counted worthy to see the desire of their hearts. The supernatural was unveiled to them and became reality. After Denver and his companions helped them enter the city by disguising them as four of their football players, Cesare and Yann blocked them on the way. These two didn't find their copies any amusing. Batman also realized his mistake and alerted Nootra Security Forces Headquarters. Superman and Captain Nootra immediately took off to apprehend the intruders. They, however, faced Trunks who came to rescue the Earthlings.

After Superman and Captain Nootra had merged and became Super-Nootra, Cesare and Yann crushed them, as well as Trunks. These two used their footballs to knock out the superheroes into oblivion. The Shredder subsequently captured Denver and tried to escape with the dinosaur, but the Ninja Turtles appeared on the scene and prevented the bladed villain from harming anyone. So went the clashes in the streets of Nootra.

The latest round of the fight opposing Shredder and his gang to the Ninja Turtles began in the streets of Westside Nootra. Leonardo, the Turtle with the blue mask, displayed his twin ninja swords. Donatello, the purple-masked Turtle, revealed his bō staff. Raphael, the red-masked Turtle, released his twin ninja sais and Michelangelo, the Turtle with the orange mask, exhibited his whirling nunchakus.

Raphael: "Leave them to me, bros. We don't have to fight them together. I can drive them out in one second. Watch me."

Michelangelo: "I wish I had some popcorn. I'd enjoy watching this round. Raph is in one of his moods there."

Leonardo: “At least it’s directed towards our enemies, and not against me. (Shouts) Put them down, bro; you’re the best.”

Raphael separated from his brothers to fight Bebop and Rocksteady. He ran towards them, gained momentum and thrust himself high in the air. With his ninja sais ready to hand, he spun and shot each at Bebop and Rocksteady, immobilizing them by pinning their shoes to the ground.

Michelangelo: “Now this is what I call precision. Raph’s ninja sais passed between their toes and froze them without hurting them. Who says better?”

Leonardo: “Raph just dethroned Hawkeye there.”

Bebop and Rocksteady managed to break free somehow. They unrooted Raphael’s ninja sais and shot them back at him. But these weapons only fell into the hands of their master.

Raphael: “Wrong calculation, dudes. You can’t use my beauties against me.”

Donatello: “These two need no strain on your part, bro. Admire how I take them down without breaking a sweat.”

Raphael: “Donnie, what are you doing? They’re mine alone. Have you heard?”

Donatello didn’t listen to his brother. He appeared before Shredder’s mutants with his bō staff and made a show of how well he wielded his weapon. As he spun it in every direction, Bebop and Rocksteady became dizzy and saw stars. They couldn’t stand the turns and before they understood anything, Donatello struck them simultaneously and they were beaten.

Donatello: “Sorry, Raph; you were not going to have fun alone.”

Leonardo: “That was quite a demonstration, Don. I don’t see anyone competing with you in handling the bō staff.”

Raphael: “Quit playing the sensei, Leo. Donnie, you outstripped me on this one, but I won’t leave you any second for that next time.”

Michelangelo: “Now that we’ve finished with these two, let’s move on to the Shredder.”

Leonardo: “It’s between you and me, Oruku Saki. Bros, now’s my turn.”

Shredder: “Come taste my blades, Leonardo. I’ll shred you like they shred paper to pieces.”

Leonardo drew his katana to attack the enemy. He used his twin swords simultaneously and attempted many strikes on Shredder. This one shifted and jumped swiftly so that Leonardo’s strikes didn’t bruise him. Then Shredder brought down his left hand all decked with blades to cut the Turtle. That wasn’t counting the high speed and agility of Leonardo who acrobatically dodged the attack. Then he appeared behind Shredder with his two swords crossed before him. Shredder used his hands, then his bladed arms to push back the swords. When Leonardo’s grip was loosened, Shredder stretched out a leg and kicked him backwards. He got out of his hold and leapt to a lamppost. Standing firm on the thin metallic chandelier, Shredder made another long jump to the top of a tall building. Leonardo followed him to the roof of the structure and they continued there, under the gaze of the three Turtles.

When Leonardo was fighting Shredder, Noah, who had been in hiding, ran to her friends and shook them to awaken them from the sleep into which the soporific gas had driven them. Jeremy woke up and searched his sack for some Senzu Beans.¹² He forced them into the mouth of Trunks and the Saiyan regained consciousness. Once replenished through the immediate remedial effects of the Senzu, Trunks sent a signal by emitting a large amount of energy from his body. He was calling some companions, and reinforcement came in a few minutes. Seeing that he wouldn’t win, Shredder climbed down the building by jumping from one part to another until he reached the ground. Then he called his two henchmen.

Shredder: “Bebop, Rocksteady, more Saiyans are coming! Run for it.”

Bebop: “What do we do with the dinosaur?”

¹² Senzu Beans are mystical beans with immense rejuvenation properties in *Dragon Ball*.

Shredder: "Won't you use your head for once? Don't you see they'll get us if we take him along? You two, board the vehicle and let's disappear."

Donatello: "The same old story. Shredder always takes to his heels."

Leonardo: "Don't let him get away."

Raphael: "Whatever you say, fearless leader."

Michelangelo: "There we go again: Shredder on the run."

The Ninja Turtles went after the fleeing Shredder, leaving the rest behind. The Earthlings were disappointed that they didn't chat with them, though Noah still shouted something before they disappeared.

Noah: "Thanks, Michelangelo. I'll bring some pizza next time."

Shades: "Don't shout so loud; you'll wake up the big guys."

Wally: "Denver is hurt tied up like that. Everyone, come let's loosen him."

The Nootrans and their new friends unfettered Denver, and the dinosaur was back with his pals. He carried each of them and licked them lovingly even though the Earthlings were more excited by the Saiyan.

Noah: "You were spectacular, Trunks. You shredded the cuffs even better than Shredder could do."

Trunks: "You liked it? That was only a beginner's lesson. If Yann and Cesare had not butted in, you would have seen more of what me and my sword can do."

Ryan: "Wait a minute; are you present or Future Trunks? I can't tell which one of them you are now. It's true both of you have a sword, but present Trunks doesn't use it often."

Mario: "Of course he's present Trunks. What's wrong with you, Earthlings? I'm already fed up with your stupid remarks. And your logic is completely daft. How can someone be future when he's here present?"

Alan: "There was a complication in the plot of the anime. Trunks had to come from the future to save his timeline. Those episodes were epic."

Trunks: "I like that script. Your stories sound interesting. We'll hear them after taking you to a safer place. Here they come. Over here, guys."

Trunks was motioning to his companions who had appeared in the sky and who were about to land in their midst.

Zach: "Guys, are you seeing what I'm seeing?"

Alan: "This is big. They're exactly as we know them."

Noah: "Son Gohan, Son Goten and Krilin!"¹³

Shades: "Snap out of it, Earthies, or they'll take the big head."

Mario: "Must you do this for everyone you see in Nootra? Yes, we're what you call 'cartoons.' You know us and will probably see more of us, so stop playing 'surprised' each time you see a hero."

Goten: "Don't get upset, Mario. It's not like it's a bad thing. I don't mind being acclaimed by admirers."

Mario: "It wasn't an acclaim, Goten. Just wait until you see it three or four times; then you tell me."

Trunks: "Gohan, we should get these visitors out of the reach of the security forces. NSF is after them for no good reason at all. Those big guys suspect anyone now, so I had to stop Cap and Superman from taking them away."

Gohan: "You did good, Trunks. I can't believe Cap was influenced too. It's not like him to detain children."

Shades: "Are you kidding me, Gohan? Cap and Sups fused just to fight Trunks. Good the footballers corrected them for doing such a mean thing as fusing their powers to fight someone who is not their level."

Gohan: "Superman loves playing fusion. He does that every time he patrols the city with Cap; even against harmless offenders. Don't take what they did to heart. Let's hide the visitors the time NSF calms down. Hello friends. I see you know us already. So what should we call you?"

¹³ Son Gohan, Son Goten, Krilin, Future Trunks and Cell appear in *DBZ*.

Noah: “My name is Noah. The laid-back guy is Alan. This one with an aggressive look is Zach. And here is Ryan, like the faith guy. We come from planet Earth.”

Gohan: “Pleased to meet you, Earthlings. Now let’s move before the big guys wake up.”

Krilin: “Gohan, can you carry Denver? He weighs a ton, you know.”

Goten: “Sure, Gohan can. He took out Cell, remember? Denver will be as light as a feather for him.”

Krilin: “Those were the good old days you missed, Gotenks.”¹⁴

Gohan: “Thanks for the compliment, little brother, though you did it just to escape the burden. Anyway, I’m the oldest Saiyan among you, so it’s my responsibility. Come on; let’s take off.”

Son Gohan carried Denver. Trunks sailed with Mario, Alan and Wally. Noah, Zach and Shades boarded Son Goten while Krilin transported Ryan and Jeremy. They all took to the sky and flew away. They were already far off when Batman arrived at the site, which had been the scene of clashes some minutes earlier. His colleagues were still lying down unconscious. He revived them with a gadget and they woke up.

Batman: “What exactly are you doing? Where are the intruders?”

Superman: “We didn’t succeed in capturing them. Cesare and Yann hit us with their football and I sense the Saiyans have taken them away.”

Batman knitted his brows and gave the two an angry look.

Batman: “Cesare and Yann? Don’t make me laugh.”

Captain Nootra: “I’d be delighted if I could and see how you look when you laugh with that mask on. The laughing bat wouldn’t be a small joke to tell my friends. Yet the truth is Cesare and Yann got the better of us.”

¹⁴ Gotenks results from the successful fusion of Trunks and Goten using the Fusion Dance in *Dragon Ball*. Here, it is used for the names Goten and Trunks though they haven’t fused.

Batman: "This is nonsense. Those ordinary kids can't deal a scratch on superheroes like you two."

Captain Nootra: "You call Cesare and Yann ordinary kids? I see you don't watch Nootra's Wings football team play."

Superman: "Yeah. That shot was more powerful than any punch I've ever received. Not even Super-Nootra could do a thing."

Batman: "I understand Cap can be irresponsible, but Superman, you won't be dragged into the recklessness just because you partner with him. It's probably the enemy we've been watching out for that has penetrated right into the heart of the city. They must be arrested and interrogated about their motives. You can't tell what the enemies of Nootra are manoeuvring."

Captain Nootra: "There you go again on your guesswork. You always assume the worst, but I saw their faces and nothing showed they're a threat. And you reproach us meanwhile you're the first who's defective here. Then you have the guts to say that I'm irresponsible. Answer me, Batman; how come you let intruders enter the city when you're supposed to be vigilant?"

Batman: "What's the point, Cap; are you looking for a fight?"

Superman: "Quit messing around, you two. We have to find those extra-Nootrans."

Captain Nootra: "They're kids after all. What harm can they do?"

Batman: "We paid a high price last time because we underestimated the threat posed by the intruders. We might well still repeat the same mistake. And I wonder why Captain Nootra, protector of the city, takes it lightly."

Captain Nootra: "You may be right, but not everyone needs to wear that stern look and talk with a scary tone to show they're concerned. You're over-suspicious, bats. There's a reasoning here. Jeremy and Wally are smart and they trusted the alleged 'intruders'. Saiyans too are keepers of the city and they can't betray it by helping our enemies. Instead of suspecting those children, why not trust our men?"

Batman: "Nootra should have known better than make you its protector. You compromise too easily, Cap. The Green Dino Band and the Saiyans are all kids and though the latter may be agents, they don't have responsibility enough to perceive the gravity of the situation. That's why NSF didn't deem it necessary to tell them about the menace. When the enemy strikes, they don't look back or think twice. Create an opening for them and you'll see your whole world crumble into dust. I've been in this business for years and I've never seen the enemy capitulate. If you're captain of this city, it's high time you acted as such."

Captain Nootra: "This is no business, Mr. Billionaire. Get this right: NSF didn't make me Captain Nootra. I became captain of this city because I live here, because I love this civilization and because the Nootra Shield chose me. The will of my predecessors in the shield gave me this title. They wanted me because they trusted me; and they're right because I'll do everything to protect the people. I'm not all brain like you, Bruce; I have a heart as well. I see things from both angles before passing judgement. It's time you asked yourself why the Nootra Shield chose me instead of you."

Batman: "You think I care anything about that title you hold? That's the least of my concern. I don't need anybody's recognition to do what I do. All I want is keep this city secure so that no one tampers with this civilization, which is an emblem of hope across the universe. And people like you shouldn't be in my way."

Captain Nootra: "If you're so eager to defend the city, why not get some powers? You continue to depend on rudimentary weapons and can't be one hundred percent efficient in combat. The training bases are open to all, even to you, but Mister thinks he can fight super villains his own way without using super powers. Superheroes won't always be there to save your hide, Batman."

Batman: "Are you done already? Now, record this in your brain. Super powers don't define anyone. Having them isn't the issue. What you do with them is what matters. If you can do what you're supposed to do without them, it's

useless having them. It's all about strategy. To have a good strategy, you have to gather information and analyze the case by taking into account every minute detail. Having thus worked on your intelligence, you set up offensive and defensive tactics, and launch an operation with utmost precision, in line with the plan you put in place. If you conduct things this way, even with crude gadgets, you'll defeat the enemy no matter what power they have. Regrettably, people like you will never understand these things."

Superman: "Batman has a point. There's nobody without super powers as skilful in combat as Batman. Cap, I won't hide you the fact that I'm not sure to beat him if it came to single combat. He's dexterous, crafty and proficient and in his own way, he outsmarts villains and defeats them. Everything comes from the heart. If you desire to do something, you'll do it regardless of whether you have supernatural abilities or not. Batman has chosen to protect the people and that's what he's doing, though without super powers."

Batman: "Enough of that, Superman. I don't need you to shower me with compliments. And leave the issue of heart to Cap; kids are so fond of that stuff. Yet there must be something you have to be doing if you're in this world. I've chosen to uphold this civilization without relying on supernatural abilities. Not all people want to have those powers. It's not because I can have them that I should have them. They add nothing to and subtract nothing from anyone. I'm comfortable with my way of doing things and I don't know why others are upset."

Captain Nootra: "Spit it out, bats. Instead of hiding behind the slogan 'upholding this civilization', why not simply admit you give yourself so much trouble for this city because you love the people? Someone you know very well told me love is nothing to be ashamed of. And you're lucky I choose to forget all disrespectful remarks you made about me. Captain Nootra has vowed to protect citizens and that's what he's doing. Why not do the same by being effective in your post instead of having others clean up your mess?"

Superman: "I've had enough of both of you. Cap, don't you ever stop? Batman is an elder and my best friend. You shouldn't talk to him like that. You ought to apologize immediately."

Batman: "Apologize to me? I want no such thing from him. His words don't bother me at all, Superman. These are the very words that enabled him to become stronger. I'll let him be as long as he continues to challenge me in areas I never considered of note in security, strategy or combat. Yet count on me to rebuke him anytime he misses the mark."

Captain Nootra: "Only in your nightmares."

Superman: "You two are so weird. Well, it's your family affair and though I'm familiar with it, I still don't understand anything about it."

Captain Nootra: "Superman, never mention again that I'm related to this guy. Before I forget, bats, I want a new pair of boots. What are these shoes, which kids make fun of all the time?"

Batman: "That has nothing to do with me, Captain. Remember, mode Captain Nootra gives you your outfit, build and appearance. And when will you quit worrying over every unnecessary remark people make about you?"

Superman: "Quite a big show you two are staging here. I would have a good laugh if you were not so serious."

Captain Nootra: "If that was meant as a joke, Superman, well, it wasn't funny. The offstage is over and here are your orders: Batman, return to your post and Superman, come with me and let's find the intruders."

Superman (to himself): "I guess I'll miss the party again this year. I didn't want to attend it, now I have a good excuse. Lucky me; mom won't scold me for being absent."

Superman, Captain Nootra and Batman separated for their respective assignments. Meanwhile, the Earthlings were in total hysterics when their new friends took them to the sky.

Alan: "Splendid! We first floated in space, now we're flying in the air. It's refreshing to feel the breeze all around;

nothing to do with outer space where everything was so cold."

Shades: "It's nothing. Haven't you seen anyone fly before?"

Wally: "It's nothing, Shades? How come you don't fly then?"

Shades: "I have my reasons. What I mean is flying is too common in Nootra. Even football players fly nowadays."

Ryan: "But nobody flies on Earth; only vessels do. Nobody has succeeded in defying the law of gravity and rising on their own without engines."

Mario: "What; the law? You're dealing with that system? Earthlings must be a bunch of faithless folks who wouldn't use their potentials to the fullest."

Ryan: "What do you mean, Mario?"

Gohan: "Mario means any system using the law only places obligations, prohibitions and restrictions on people, which prevent them from attaining their zenith. The knowledge of the law excludes faith and opposes manifestations of the supernatural."

Mario: "Gohan, are you insinuating I can't develop my point on my own?"

Gohan: "Sorry, Mario. Please, have your way."

Mario: "Ryan, I don't understand why the people of Earth would like to fly, but they don't. It's evident that when you want something, you have it."

Jeremy: "You don't understand, huh? Let me remind you, Mario that you too can't fly. It needed faith for superheroes to start flying."

Shades: "And a lot of training too. Mario can't fly because he's lazy. I can't fly because I don't need to do everything. It would be silly if everybody in Nootra flew."

Wally: "That's only an excuse to cover up the fact that you can't fly. Why not just admit that only those with lots of energy do fly?"

Trunks: "I'm not of the same opinion, Wally. I think the will makes all things possible. If you want something, as

Mario said, and if you believe it with all your heart, it'll manifest."

Krilin: "It's true. I, for one, didn't know how to fly, but all my friends did. I desired it, I believed it, and I visualized myself flying. I did train yet without the will and faith, I wouldn't have made it."

Noah: "As for me, I've always wanted to meet you superheroes. I believed all things are possible since Agape said so. And here I am in the city of my heroes."

Ryan: "Agape is the force behind the manifestation of everything, which is love and just. Whatever you want, if it's love, if it's just, He has already given it to you. You only have to appropriate it by believing."

Zach: "Excuse me to interrupt you, guys; Goten, can you tell me where I can find Son Goku?¹⁵ I'd like to challenge him to a duel."

Goten: "You know my father?"

Shades: "Of course, they know all of us, except Captain Nootra and his city, which they thought was some cartoon world that didn't exist."

Ryan: "Son Goku is famous on Earth and considered one of the strongest heroes."

Trunks: "This isn't surprising. Goten, your father's fame has reached the furthestmost parts of the universe."

Zach: "We do know all of you, but many don't know you exist for real. What we're experiencing is first-time. Some back at home may find it hard to believe we met you."

Goten: "Your world is strange indeed; we do exist as you can see. What do you people imagine on Earth? Things do not exist except when people do not know them, though there are things that exist without the knowledge of people. In our case, however, if a number of people of your world can identify us, what more proof do you need to accept that we exist?"

¹⁵ Son Goku is the hero of *Dragon Ball*. Pikkoro Jr., the Namek, appears in *DBZ*. Namek is a planet (*DBZ*). Niisan, Aniki means big brother.

Krilin: "I think you don't have to force people to believe what you believe. Something doesn't cease to be because some people don't believe it. Nothing can change truth."

Trunks: "Truth is absolute. It doesn't depend on anything to be; not even on faith. Yet only those who believe can experience truth and make it their reality. Because you believed, you saw the manifestation. Don't expect everyone to believe you for it is not their reality."

Goten: "Trunks, did you take lessons from the Sages of Heyas or what? You now talk like some of their disciples."

Trunks: "You started it, Goten. Did you hear what you said before I spoke? One would think it was Pikkoro speaking."

Goten: "Hahaha. You know very well that Pikkoro trained Gohan and in his turn, big brother passed down what he learned to me. It's not surprising if I can say such things. Whereas you; Vegeta raised you and I don't see him say anything coming from that direction."

Trunks: "Don't pretend you don't know my father. He plays tough to mask what is indeed a heart of gold. I'm his son and I only express what my father is on the inside."

Goten: "Sorry, Zach; we've been carried away by this crummy talk. Sorry to disappoint you more; my father and his companions are not in the city. They're on mission on planet Namek."

Going over the city through the locomotives that were the Saiyans and Krilin, Alan and his companions were struck by the immensity of Nootra.

Alan: "Nootra is a very big city. I've never seen one like this before. We walked the streets for hours and have been flying over the city for quite a while now. It's endless. By the way, what's the name of this country?"

Krilin: "Country? There are no countries here. All the places you see are Nootra. This planet is the city of Nootra."

Noah: "What? You mean this entire planet consists only of this city? How is such a thing possible?"

Gohan: "Nootra is vast and well organized. Alan rightly noticed; it's an endless metropolis of several large districts."

The idea of the founding fathers when they came to this planet four thousand years ago was to build a civilization different from what they had known. They had witnessed wars and deception because men broke up into factions and called themselves a particular people different from those who hitherto had been their neighbours. Yet it was the same people for there was no difference among them. Difference, division are only illusions to be surpassed in perception so that all things are viewed as one and linked together. Unfortunately, because of that misconception, they considered others as different and began to hate and fight each other until they brought chaos to their world.

‘Refugees from many planets came here and discovered that there was something special about this place. They founded the city of Nootra and decreed it as a civilization, which didn’t consider origin, race or any such things, which cause division among men. Nootra was built on this mindset from that generation. The people who came later adopted the same values and had them implanted in the countless generations following. They saw themselves as one people with a common destiny; that of giving a new image to the world through the unity and freedom they enjoyed in Nootra.

‘Nootrans soon realized that the planet prospered tremendously due to their attachment and commitment to one another. The people experienced wholeness and all-sufficiency because they had this attitude of love, faith and justice with a determination to safeguard these treasures their ancestors passed down to them. It was then that supernatural things began to occur and the first peoples developed superhuman abilities. This made Nootrans even more conscious of their uniqueness and they were confident about the role they had to play in the world.

‘Super powers were a gift from this planet so those who received them naturally didn’t keep them to themselves, but they shared with the rest. Training bases were opened to teach the supernatural arts to those who were willing. Others transferred their powers to their children. Although supernatural powers are innate in some, they often manifest themselves with the working of faith, and a little training too.

‘When Nootrans developed in the supernatural, people from other planets came to the city to learn the art. From its creation, Nootra has refused to live in fear. It has been prompt in offering citizenship to anyone willing. The line of reasoning was if we all are in this universe, we should live wherever we want. And Nootra was like the best place in the world, so it would be good if everybody came and lived here. Nootra, therefore, remained open and didn’t shut its doors because it feared opposition.

‘Peoples of the galaxies benefited from its openness and acquired super powers. However, some were not sincere. Taking advantage of its hospitality, they infiltrated the city with greedy purposes, claiming to share its values. Some citizens also rebelled and openly renounced those values. Others, because of ignorance, were unable to discern right from wrong. Others still, having gone through hard times due to some negative occurrences, failed to uphold the love and justice this city stands for. These people, who are citizens as well as people from other planets, turned evil and became the band of villains.

‘Yet the truth in everything, as Ryan said, is when you love and your cause is just, you always prevail. So another group emerged, which exceeded the band of villains in power and abilities. It was the superheroes. These noble mighty men had a charismatic passion for this civilization and were zealous to uphold its values. Captain Nootra, Son Goku and Superman are a few. They stood on their indisputable honour to defend this city from all threats. Since they were fighting for the good cause, they acquired strength a thousand times superior to that of villains. Although villains may threaten, we rest assured because we have faith in our superheroes whose strength surpasses the villains’. This is how we live safe and happily every single day in this world, which is close to a paradise.”

At the end of this brief summary of the history of Nootra, Alan and his fellows were flabbergasted. It was the first time they found such grace in the history of a people.

Alan: “Absolutely stunning! We just received a lecture on the origins of Nootra. The history of this world is simply a reflection of its beauty. There’s so much nobility in the

citizens and their ancestors. No wonder the best people live here and those of our spirituals who have connected with your world represented it and its values on Earth. What was that again, Gohan; everything is one and linked together."

Ryan: "Yet one thing doesn't fit in. How is Nootra administered? I can see it's no anarchy. How do you manage a planet of just one city?"

Jeremy: "Nootra is divided into five sides - East, North, South, West and Mid Nootra. Each Side has its own headquarters and security force with many divisions. There's a Headquarters Central in Mid Nootra. Each Division encompasses several large neighbourhoods peculiar in various aspects. There's a variety of landscape and culture in each Division. Division here is for the purpose of administration and settlement, not in terms of human difference. The Sides are surrounded by the untamed, like the place you met us. Despite being part of Nootra, Headquarters doesn't enforce its influence yet defends anyone who might find themselves in danger there."

Zach: "And who's the president of this city, or should I say planet?"

Goten: "This is the first time I hear that word. What's a president?"

Alan: "The one who rules; the leader, the master of this place."

Wally: "There is no such person here."

Noah: "This big planet has no leader? How then is it governed? Who gives orders; who makes decisions?"

Krilin: "We told you already; Nootra Security Forces take charge of everything. All Divisions are represented at Headquarters Central where citizens with powers as well as those without powers sit and discuss things."

Trunks: "This city is based on trust. People have full confidence in NSF agents who have proved their loyalty in that they freely volunteered to protect and defend citizens each day. They're fully convinced of the cause Nootra upholds, and so they spread this civilization by heroing."

Zach: "I still don't get it. Someone has to be at the controls. Something can't work without a head. Who's at Headquarters?"

Gohan: "I see you're so worked up by this thing of leader. Are they so important on Earth?"

Mario: "They think the green man who's always locked up at Headquarters Central is our leader?"

Noah: "I can't believe it. Don't tell me Pikkoro is now at the technique with machines and technologies?"

Ryan: "It's not Pikkoro, Noah; it's J'onn. So J'onn J'onzz is the general."

Shades: "I think we told you no one commands us; we simply trust each other. I don't know what kind of thing you have on Earth, but this one is the best."

Wally: "This is the only one you know, Shades."

Jeremy: "NSF and its many branches have commanders reserved for them as a security force yet these officers are in no wise leaders of the people."

Krilin: "We're almost here. We'll take Denver and the boys home. As for you, friends, you can't stay with them, otherwise the security agents will find you. We suffered a setback lately and security can't take risks. They'll come after you."

Goten: "Niisan, let's take them to Secret Base L4 in the North. The agents can't arrest them there. We only have to convince our friends over there."

Gohan: "That's also what I was thinking. Our friends over there can help them get back to Earth. But we'll have to go over the Frightful Forest and that won't be pleasant."

Noah: "Who are 'our friends over there'? More of my cartoons heroes, I suppose."

Mario: "A little respect, Noah. Stop calling us cartoons; it's irritating. We're humans, okay?"

Noah: "Sorry, Mario, but I'm excited at the thought of the many people I'm going to meet in this place. It's unfortunate Vegeta isn't around."

Trunks: "Trust me, Noah; get out of your mind the idea of meeting my father. You may be disappointed for he's nothing you will call 'friendly'."

Noah: "I won't have it any other way, Trunks. It's because of his behaviour that he's my favourite."

The Saiyans dropped Denver and his companions at Wally's place and said goodbye for the moment. Separating from Noah and her friends wasn't easy for Denver, but he had to let them go. Secret Base L4 was located beyond a forest inhabited by villains and ferocious beasts. Gohan, Goten, Trunks and Krilin, bearing Zach, Noah, Ryan and Alan, tried to cross the forest unobserved.

Goten: "Let's be discreet lest the inmates detect us. Then we'll run into trouble."

Noah: "You mean they would want to hurt us? Who are the people living in this forest anyway?"

Trunks: "Villains of all sorts. Some of us put them here and they won't miss a chance of getting revenge."

Gohan: "They're trapped in this forest until they reject their wicked ways."

Alan: "A conscience detector? Can security sense when people change?"

Goten: "It's been reliable so far."

Ryan: "So those who are here can't get out of the forest?"

Krilin: "Yes. The distinctiveness of this civilization entails that nobody is killed. The wicked are exiled in this forest. They can't escape due to a stamp on their shoulders. Outsiders can get in, but those who are supposed to be here can't get out."

Zach: "I see; it's a kind of prison. So much for your civilization! I suppose your city is not as 'beautiful' as you described it."

Gohan: "What can you do? How do you solve the problem of people who want to destroy your world; who intend to overthrow everything you uphold; whose aims are to take over and impose a reign of chaos? If you can't nurture in them the values you defend, how then do you stop them from harming?"

Ryan: “Maybe some find flaws in the system and the only way to denounce it is to oppose it by becoming villains.”

Goten: “Ryan, you may be making a comparison here, but this city has no equals. That’s why it’s a civilization and not a system. We mean it when we speak of love, justice and faith as cornerstone of Nootra. My father and Pikkoro have been to countless dimensions and have testified of the uniqueness of this culture.”

Trunks: “And knowing who they are, we trust them totally, fully convinced they’re telling the truth.”

Krilin: “Because of their nobility and loyalty, some men deserve the title of sages. Their judgement and opinion have become divine and trustworthy. Yet in spite of this, they never impose their will on others. I’m privileged to be friends with one prominent among them and I can testify of his integrity. We have a large number of such people in this city and we trust them wholeheartedly.”

Gohan: “Nootra created this forest to give villains a chance to make a fresh start. It’s just as nice as any place in the city. In fact, this is the best place for spirituals. It’s villains who turned it into the Frightful Forest. You may judge it otherwise, but this is the only way NSF thought best to rehabilitate the bad guys.”

Trunks: “I envy them sometimes. The Frightful Forest is a delight in terms of spirituality, but you’ll go through tough times if you get there.”

The Saiyans’ attempt to be discreet was vain for Windfang,¹⁶ the hideous creature, spotted them. Windfang, Wrath-Amon’s henchman, was at large while his master was trapped in the forest. Wrath-Amon had instructed him to patrol the forest and bring him and his fellow villains any superhero who ventured that way. Windfang was once a good man until Wrath-Amon transformed him into that horrible creature. He remained at Wrath-Amon’s service,

¹⁶ Windfang & Wrath-Amon appear in *Conan, The Adventurer*, an animated TV series adaptation of *Conan The Barbarian*, created by Robert E. Howard that appeared in *Weird Tales* magazine (1932). *Conan, The Adventurer* was developed by Christy Marx & produced by Jetlag Productions and Sunbow Productions (Sept. 1992 - Nov. 1993). Freeza appears in *DBZ*.

hoping this one would restore his human form, as he promised.

Having sighted the Saiyan crew, Windfang spread his wings and attacked them in the sky. He came frontally in their direction and pushed them with great force. Destabilized in their flight, the children lost balance and fell onto the ground, landing in the heart of the forest. A group of villains fast assembled and closed in on them. The terrible Freeza and the awful Wrath-Amon were at their head.

Goten: "What misfortune! They seem to be really mad at us."

Freeza: "Well, well; if these are not our beloved Saiyans. Who knew the sky would so generously treat us a succulent dessert for dinner?"¹⁷

¹⁷ Rahan is the hero of *Rahan, Le Fils des Ages Farouches*, a comic series that first appeared as part of *Pif Gadget*, and then published in albums of 2 to 4 complete stories. Initially written by Roger Lecureux and later by Jean-François Lecureux, most of the artwork is drawn by Andre Cheret, and others (Enrique Romero, Zam, DeHuescar). The animated series was developed by France Animation and aired on Canal+ (Nov. 1987).

Tarzan was created by Edgar Rice Burroughs and first appeared in *Tarzan of the Apes* by *All-Story Magazine* (Oct. 1912). The first book edition was published in 1914. Conan is the hero of *Conan, The Adventurer. Samba et Leuk le Lièvre* is a TV series of 26 episodes created by Olivier Massart. It aired from 30 April 1997 on France 2 in the programme 'La Planète de Donkey Kong'.

Mr. Fantastic (Reed Richard), Invisible Woman (Susan Storm), Human Torch (Johnny Storm), The Thing (Ben Grimm) form The Fantastic 4 or FF, a superhero team in Marvel Comics. The group debuted in *The Fantastic Four #1* (Nov. 1961) and was the first superhero team created by Stan Lee and Jack Kirby.

Spider-Man (Peter Parker, Spidey) is a Marvel Comics superhero. Created by Stan Lee and Steve Ditko, he first appeared in *Amazing Fantasy #15* (Aug. 1962). Victor von Doom (Doctor Doom) is a super villain in Marvel Comics. Created by Stan Lee and Jack Kirby, he first appeared in *Fantastic Four #5* (July 1962).

Raditz, first seen in *Dragon Ball Z Chapter 1 (New Threat)*, is a Saiyan and older brother of Son Goku. Turles is the featured super villain in *Dragon Ball Z: The Tree of Might* (1990), DBZ's 3rd Movie. An upper class Saiyan, he bears a striking resemblance to Son Goku. Super Saiyan is an advanced transformation assumed by extraordinarily powerful members of the Saiyan race in *Dragon Ball*.

5 NIGHT IN THE FRIGHTFUL FOREST

Noah, Ryan, Zach and Alan ventured into the home dimension of cartoons and comics' heroes - the city of Nootra. Nootra Security Forces considered them as intruders and chased them. Some heroes, however, came to their rescue and stopped the agents from taking them away. Among these were the children of the most renowned Saiyans of the universe; Trunks, Gohan and Goten. These three with their friend Krilin decided to take the Earthlings to Secret Base L4. Now, to reach L4, they had to cross a forest, which was inhabited by villains. Although they wanted to be discreet, Windfang, the man who was transformed into a winged creature, spotted them and destabilized their flight. The Saiyan crew made a crash landing in the heart of the Frightful Forest and found themselves surrounded by a gang of villains and beasts with Freeza and Wrath-Amon at the head. These didn't seem like they wanted to give the heroes a warm welcome.

Gohan: "Stand down, Freeza. We're only crossing the forest. We mean you no harm."

Freeza: "Mean me harm? You must be kidding, Saiyan. Things have changed since our last encounter. I got stronger thanks to my friends here. Nootra didn't know they were doing me a favour by sending me to this forest. Your prison cell is a villain's paradise. I have made extraordinary encounters with people who have the same goal as me and they contributed to my evolution. I would gladly test my new powers on you, Gohan, but to Trunks be the honour."

Wrath-Amon: "I have nothing personal against these children, but crushing them means weakening Nootra's forces and that, I'm totally for."

Goten: "Brother, let's prepare for combat. They're not willing to let us go."

Terrax, the Tamer is a super villain in Marvel Comics. He was created by Marv Wolfman and John Byrne and first appears in *Fantastic Four* #211 (Oct. 1979). The Power Cosmic is a source of limitless cosmic energy in the Marvel Universe (*Fantastic Four* #48, Mar. 1966).

Freeza: "Let you go when you're our dessert tonight?"

Gohan: "Listen men, NSF sent you here for reformation. The best place in the city has been allotted to you so that through its spirituality, you may reflect on your ways and change from evil to good. Why do you persist in bringing down Nootra? Freeza, Wrath-Amon, you've turned this place into a villain's den, dragging down with you all those who want to change for real. What do you gain from doing this?"

Wrath-Amon: "A child thinks he can sermon me, the dreadful Wrath-Amon? Weigh the word when you talk of evil, kid for you do not know what true evil is. You and all of Nootra will soon witness the rise of the reign of chaos."

Trunks: "Only in your dreams, Wrath-Amon. Mark my words also. I am Trunks, son of Vegeta, prince of Saiyans: never will evil reign in Nootra. Your cause is a lost one. We're open, but the choice is yours. If you refuse to join us, you're doomed."

Freeza: "Trunks, your father worked for me as many other Saiyans did. But the values Goku acquired in Nootra influenced him and he rebelled and turned good. It is I who destroyed planet Vegeta,¹⁸ Saiyans' home world. Saiyans had been barbaric until your fathers settled here and instead of fighting the Nootrans, they joined them in upholding this monstrous civilization that seeks to eradicate evil from the world. But Nootra and its heroes won't succeed. I made it my mission to exterminate your race and I succeeded so far until I met you stubborn Saiyans. Unless you serve me, you will suffer the same fate as your stiff-necked compatriots. And when I finish with the offshoots, I'll deal with the fathers and Saiyans will be wiped out forever."

Freeza laughed out loud after finishing his discourse.

Goten: "Talking doesn't help with this band. Did you hear them? It's impossible to reason with these people. We must fight, Niisan."

¹⁸ Planet Vegeta is the home planet of Saiyans in *DBZ*.

Gohan: "You read my mind, little brother. Krilin, protect the Earthlings. Goten, cover the five of them. Trunks, you and I will engage Freeza and his band."

Ryan: "Zach and I know something about the arts. Krilin, we're counting on you to protect Noah and Alan."

Krilin: "Have no worries, friends. I grew up with the Saiyans and I don't fail when it comes to protecting my friends."

Goten: "The least you can do in battle is to trust your companions."

Trunks: "These are tough opponents. Zach, Ryan, you're sure you want to fight them?"

Zach: "I came here to challenge Son Goku, one of the mightiest heroes of the universe. How could I if I can't even fight these guys?"

Ryan: "You said it, Trunks; evil can't prevail in Nootra; so we're bound to win."

Gohan: "Everyone to their assignments."

Noah: "Be careful, guys."

Alan: "Don't worry, Noah. Agape is in them so everything is going to be all right."

A fight broke out in the forest between the villains and their band on the one hand, and Gohan and his companions on the other. Son Gohan and Trunks fought Freeza and Wrath-Amon, Krilin protected Alan and Noah while Goten covered these three by deflecting the fires of Windfang. Ryan and Zach confronted the enraged beasts of Wrath-Amon. Son Gohan noticed the strength of Zach and the fighting skills of Ryan impressed him. Although Saiyans and friends fought hard, they were outnumbered and they couldn't drive out Freeza and his gang. It was then that a voice called from an underground tunnel.

Voice: "Come with me if you want to live."

The battle was pressing hard on them and finding no respite, Son Gohan ordered his companions to follow the Voice. One after the other, they dived into the tunnel, slid a long distance and came out on another part of the forest. The passage closed instantly once the last of them came

out. They got up and followed a silhouette that went towards a baobab. On reaching the tree, they found friends who had come to their rescue - Rahan, Son of the Dark Age, Conan, the Adventurer, Tarzan of the Apes, Samba and Leuk the Hare. Seeing that his enemies had escaped from his claws, Freeza got in a rage, furious that the Alliance had joined the Saiyans. He threatened with a loud voice.

Freeza: "Saiyans and the rest, you won't leave this forest unharmed. You will all be crushed by this time tomorrow and I'll finally take my revenge on Trunks and deal with him as I dealt with his grandfather."

Wrath-Amon: "Quit shouting; they're all gone. But our objective hasn't been attained. We must destroy them to weaken Nootra's forces, and then our friends at large will overthrow NSF and get us out of here."

Freeza: "That will be the end of Nootra. We'll establish a reign of chaos and rule with an iron fist. This is our big chance. Gather everyone on the spot."

Wrath-Amon: "Don't give me orders, Freeza. Let it be clear; I do this for my own interest and not because of you. Windfang, keep on patrolling so that none of them escapes from the forest before our army is set. My loyal beasts, you're not trapped here like us. Get quickly to our comrades outside and tell them they're expected here before dawn."

So the enemy prepared for the battle that would take place at dawn. Meanwhile, darkness had fallen in the forest. Tarzan and his companions of the Alliance led our friends to a cave, a place to spend the night safely.

Tarzan: "Sorry pals, but you'll have to do with this. We must stay here tonight. It won't be to our advantage to fight Freeza's band in the dark. Wrath-Amon's beasts are more ferocious at night."

Samba: "These guys go crazy any time a Saiyan comes this way."

Leuk: "It's Freeza. He's bent on avenging himself on one of them."

Trunks: "He addressed himself to me specifically. I don't know what he meant by wanting to take revenge on me personally. What did I do to him?"

The Alliance looked at each other and said nothing. Noah wanted to speak, but Gohan covered her mouth so she wouldn't reveal to Trunks the truth behind Freeza's words.

Gohan: "Don't worry, Trunks; he was just saying anything. Alliance, thanks for coming to our help. We would be crushed by this hour if you hadn't intervened."

Conan: "Save your gratitude for tomorrow, son of Goku. The real battle hasn't begun yet."

Goten: "I see the Alliance continue in their activities. I can't believe brave men like you live in the forest with these villains."

Krilin: "Part of Nootra Security Forces is in the Frightful Forest. It's indeed an effective means of containing villains and very strategic of NSF."

Tarzan: "The forest is first of all our home, Krilin. We live here and try to put some order though a few villains want to turn everything upside down. We also help anyone who might find themselves in danger here."

Gohan: "That's just like NSF. You can't get anywhere in this city without finding allies."

Trunks: "The agents of West Side wanted to arrest these strangers from Earth without hearing them first. Those big guys have become too wary. And I thought Captain Nootra never played Batman's game."

Leuk: "It's because they used the cloning and passed for citizens. You should know that security has tightened since the recent assault on HQ East. Domes are over residential quarters and heroes now guard the gates. But don't fear, friends from Earth. The Alliance belongs to Nootra Security Forces, but we're not directly accountable to them. We'll see you safely out of the forest."

Conan: "Well said, Leuk. I don't always call 'danger' what they call 'danger'. We, the Alliance, judge from our own perspective before taking action."

Noah was glad to meet Rahan. She approached him and asked.

Noah: “May I sit next to you, son of Craô the Sage?”¹⁹ I’m Noah of Earth.”

Rahan: “Of course, Noah. I’m honoured to meet those-who-walk-on-two-feet from planet Earth.”

Noah was over the moon when Rahan allowed her to stay close to him. He put his chain around her neck and let her play with his knife. The knife of Rahan was a famous white instrument serving not only as a weapon, but also as a compass to show him the direction to take whenever he left for any of his endless journeys. After the Alliance had acquainted with their guests and delighted them with treasures of the forest, they all found a place of comfort to rest. Then Rahan began to think out loud.

Rahan: “Those-who-walk-on-two-feet are complex in their line of reasoning. The people you call villains have a cause and they’ll fight for it.”

Krilin: “That ideal of yours, which wants all men living together in peace is popular yet quite utopian. How can you be at peace with people who want to harm you and bring chaos to the world?”

Conan: “I’m with Krilin. No need to try to understand those guys. Give them a chance and you’ll find yourself regretting it all your life.”

Ryan: “I think it’s good to stick to one’s convictions, even if they sound utopian. That’s where our honour lies.”

Goten: “Are you also a thinker, Ryan?”

Zach: “We admire Rahan for his virtues: courage, loyalty, wisdom, resilience, generosity. People respect him on Earth because of these values.”

Trunks: “Are people guided by these virtues in your world?”

Alan: “Our world is similar to yours. There are good as well as bad guys there. But it’s up to everyone to choose

¹⁹ Craô the Sage (Craô le Sage) appears in *Rahan, Le Fils des Ages Farouches*.

the path to follow. What I'm convinced of is that good always triumphs over evil."

Rahan: "Perhaps the faith and hope of the good towards the 'evil' is what matters. Heroes are not those who have physical strength. Heroes are those who accept all those-who-walk-on-two-feet as they are and believe the best for them. This faith transforms them into better people. That's how good eradicates evil."

Alan: "You mean the good things we think about people can turn them into good people?"

Conan: "Anyone can, except Wrath-Amon. He's evil itself."

Samba: "Don't categorize people, Conan; every man is perfectible. Never give up on anyone."

Conan: "You wouldn't say that if you knew who Wrath-Amon really is."

Goten: "I agree with Conan. Wrath-Amon's speech on installing a reign of evil frightened me a lot."

Rahan: "Goten, fear is a negative force. If you allow it to gain ground in your mind, you'll never achieve anything great, but if you have faith, everything will be as you want it."

Samba: "Don't be afraid because of what they said. The enemy has only one weapon at his disposal: fear. He has no power, no strength; nothing at all. But if you're trapped in fear, he'll have you without you even putting up a fight."

Tarzan: "Well, Rahan, your thoughts on 'the evil can turn into good if you believe the best for them' are noble and I'm familiar with them, especially when I'm with the animals. Many won't believe animals have feelings despite their wild nature. I deal with them and trust me, the wildest can sometimes be as gentle as a lamb. But you must watch out and be on your guard against people like Freeza and Wrath-Amon. Such are hard to learn. We fight them first, then pray they change."

Rahan: "We could do the opposite as well, Tarzan. Friends, I'll be by your side and I won't allow any of them to harm anyone. They may have a cause, but their method isn't right. They can't go against people's freedom to

realize their dreams. Any cause demanding that those-who-walk-on-two-feet suffer isn't right. Yet I must believe the best for them. That's the peace I'm after."

Conan: "It might take you long to find that peace. Believe me; I know what I'm talking about."

Trunks: "I have questions on the existence of evil in the world. I used to wonder why some men choose evil instead of good when the heart of every child is filled with love. Childhood mindset is the apogee of a human being. In this state, a man believes, loves and lives in happiness. Why is it that when some people grow, they choose evil instead?"

Samba: "Trunks, there are many reasons why people turn bad. The presence of evil can be explained casually as consequence of the Fall. That was when things started to oppose man and he discovered that he wasn't happy. But this is no excuse for people to practice evil. There are billion cases of people who went through hard times and came out with a heart full of love; keeping still that 'good' nature with them. A human being is divine and has the capacity to rise from his ashes unto beauty."

Tarzan: "As you said, Trunks, childhood is proof that man was born to love and do good. In my opinion, the reason why people turn to evil is because either they don't know what happiness means or have never experienced it. Another reason may be that they do know yet deliberately choose to hurt. There's nothing you can do about it, except as Rahan said, believe they'll find happiness and become good. Without any controversy, a happy man is good. The revolution that shall change the world is that every man finds happiness and be happy."

Ryan: "In our world, Agape came and preached love for friends as well as for foes. He put on humanity and reversed the consequences of the Fall in His body."

Goten: "Wow! You're lucky to know Him. My father has been looking for Him ever since."

The Earthlings looked at each other in amazement as regards what they heard with their own ears.

Alan: "Revelatory! (To Ryan) And you came here looking for Him!"

Rahan: "So it was on Earth He did it."

Conan: "We know the Cause and what Agape did for its benefits to profit everyone. Agape is the hero who saved all men by becoming one with them."

Rahan: "Legend has it that Agape planted a seed in Nootra ground. Its influence over this planet prompted our ancestors to raise this civilization on love, justice and faith. This seed is responsible for giving superhuman abilities to those who want them."

Gohan: "Agape gave us our powers yet none of us can compare to Him; not even my father or Superman."

Tarzan: "The glory He received on our behalf propelled His fame to the most distant galaxies. All people of all planets have benefited from this victory He got on Earth."

Trunks: "And the most fascinating thing is He didn't use His fists to do that. Love is the most powerful weapon there is."

Alan: "I'm a hundred percent with you, Trunks. With love, you take down the whole band of villains in one round and there's no need for a rematch."

Samba: "You said it, Earthling. Agape's love for man is indescribable. What He did out of love for us is the noblest thing ever done in existence. There's nothing bigger."

Goten: "But who can love like Agape? If we could, we would have wiped out evil already. My father is determined to meet Him, so he visits the galaxies to gather information about Him. He's convinced the knowledge of Him will enlighten him on the love that turns everything into good. This is the dream of Son Goku."

Ryan: "I'm glad Son Goku and I have the same dream."

Tarzan: "Earth must be sacred if He chose it as the site to obtain salvation for all men. I'm sure your people are special."

Zach: "Earthlings are humans like you, though without super powers. Yet this is the first time I realize how unique we are among the peoples of the universe."

Ryan: "Agape fills the whole world, but His life is yet to be experienced by many. There are people who have His

Spirit and they dispense His kingdom everywhere so that all may know what He is for them. His earnest desire is that men know themselves the same as He knows them. Our union with Him is the original thought that inspired creation."

Gohan: "Pikkoro used to say people don't see the worth of something when it's near. We have believed the testimony though it didn't happen here. What He did on Earth benefits all humanity, whatever planet or epoch they are. I'm sure when the entire Earth knows Him, that will be the age of the manifestation of the perfection of all things."

Krilin: "Friends, Goku will definitely visit your planet after hearing this."

The Earthlings rejoiced because of what they heard. They didn't know these things as regards their cartoon heroes.

Rahan: "May I tell you the story of how Agape helped me adopt my vision of life?"

Conan: "Not one of his stories again. Doesn't he ever tire of telling them? I can't understand how some people repeat the same things over and over again."

Samba: "These children are strangers here. It would be a pity if they left without hearing one of Rahan's stories, which we all have. And this is the perfect atmosphere - a clear night with millions of stars, and a gentle breeze all over the cave."

Tarzan: "Rahan doesn't do it for his own sake, Conan. His stories are inspiring. I assure you, these kids will be thankful for hearing it."

Leuk: "Remember the sensation you get when you hear any for the first time."

Krilin: "I heard news of your stories, firehair and I can't wait to listen to one of them."

Rahan opened his mouth and began to talk. Noah was resting close to him and the others, Earthlings, Saiyans and Krilin, sat around him. They were all eager to listen and they paid reverent attention to what he said. When he started to talk, Noah handed him the chain he gave her

and he took it and put it around his neck. He kept on touching the beads as he related the story. The five bear claws of the necklace represented the five virtues he inherited from his father, which had guided him all along.

Rahan was filled with wisdom, which he received from his insatiable quest for identity and purpose. He found his Nindo²⁰ through the things he experienced and his difficulties only strengthened his convictions. What was peculiar to him was his deep reverence for those-who-walk-on-two-feet, be they good or 'evil'. He was committed to finding that peace, which would cause men to respect each other and have them live together in unity. His story captivated the Earthlings and Saiyans, as they explored the riches of his person through that astounding narrative. Even Conan, Samba, Leuk and Tarzan fell once again for the wonder of his incredible adventure. What a blessing for all of them to hear the blissful tale of the man who crossed land and sea, space and stars to get to the sun's lair, the place where Agape dwelled!

When Rahan finished his narrative, there was complete silence in the cave and all around the surrounding forest. Only the noise of the gentle breeze, which developed periodically into stronger winds, was heard. This reinforced the feeling of awe already formed in each of the people present in the cave at that hour of night. They all cherished the magical sensations mounting in them, drawn from the depths of the heart of the son of Craô the Sage. Under this unspeakable enchantment, the children fell asleep and the Alliance kept watch.

²⁰ Nindo: a personal way of life someone takes upon themselves to guide them.

6 REINFORCEMENTS

Noah, Alan, Ryan and Zach, four teens from Earth, entered the world of cartoons and comics' heroes. They made friends with some Nootrans though NSF tracked them down, taking them for intruders. Gohan, Trunks, Goten and Krilin rescued them from the hands of Superman and Captain Nootra, and the eight children travelled together to Secret Base L4. In the course of their journey, they had to cross the Frightful Forest, a place inhabited by villains and animals under the command of Freeza and Wrath-Amon. Windfang attacked them and falling in the heart of the forest, they were surrounded by foes. They fought bravely yet didn't prevail. But the Alliance was around. This branch of NSF, including Tarzan, Samba, Leuk, Conan and Rahan, helped them escape Wrath-Amon and his gang. They all took refuge in a cave somewhere in the forest and waited for daylight.

After Rahan finished his story, some heroes fell asleep while others kept watch. Long before dawn, Samba woke up and sat at the entrance to the cave. He took out his flute and started to play a melody, which carried a message of peace for every listener. That dark morning was calm, like the calmness that often preceded a battle. Alan was up by then and gazing at the starry sky. Samba's music came to his ears and aroused emotions in him. It went deep into his soul and enlightened him on his identity. Looking at the stars with that melody in his head, his mind was renewed and he was conscious of being a divine being in the world. He pondered on all that had happened so far and the wonder of their incredible adventure awestruck him. He could do nothing, except bless the One who made his dream reality.

Samba's flute soon awoke Noah, who got up and moved towards him. Leuk was standing not far from the flutist and Noah went to talk with the hare. Conan was also keeping watch and he joined them.

Noah: "What is that beautiful piece of music?"

Leuk: "This melody soothes troubled hearts in the forest. Many villains turned away from evil after spending time in this forest. Some have become renowned heroes like Vegeta, Trunks' father. But since Wrath-Amon and Freeza came here, they trouble everyone and harden their hearts. Villains now refuse to let their inner man be enlightened."

Conan: "There is yet another reason for the music. Samba is sending a signal. This particular melody gives our exact position. Heroes who hear the sound will come for backup."

Alan had been following the three and he exclaimed alarmingly.

Alan: "Oh, no! If that's the case, the enemy will know our position too."

Leuk: "No, Alan. The message is decoded only by the Alliance and their backers."

Noah: "More of my heroes are coming then. I wonder who I'm going to meet this time."

The song of Samba moved along the distant forest and came to the hearing of friends. These hurried to the secret location and before dawn, they were assembled.

Noah: "This is huge, Alan! Reed Richard also known as Mr. Fantastic, Susan Storm aka Invisible Woman, Ben Grimm aka The Thing, Johnny Storm or the Human Torch and Peter Parker aka Spider-Man."

Samba: "Welcome, citizens. I'm glad to see you again."

Human Torch: "Hello Samba and Leuk. How are you doing, Tarzan? Long time no see, Mr. Conan. Hail to you, son of Craô. Saiyans, Krilin and the strange company over there, you're welcome."

Spider-Man: "Why welcome them when it's you who just arrived?"

Human Torch: "This is my team, okay? They're the strangers here. Last time I asked to join them, Pikkoro slammed the door to my face. I'm even being polite here. I could have backed it to the sender."

Spider-Man: "It's to Pikkoro you had to say that, but I guess you were too scared to say a word to him."

Human Torch: "Spider, get off my shoes, will you? You haven't greeted anyone since we arrived. Who's being ill-mannered here; me or you?"

Spider-Man: "Hello everyone. Wait a minute; I don't know these guys. Don't tell me they're the extra-Nootrans that make NSF tremble?"

Thing: "Only children? What went wrong with the guys of Westside?"

Mr. Fantastic went about probing the Earthlings experientially.

Mr. Fantastic: "They're humans yet their race is unknown to me. They seem harmless, but are strange indeed. I think I should study them after this."

The Thing: "I thought I heard Doom speaking. You behave like a mad scientist already, Reed."

Spider-Man: "Ben is right, Mr. Fantastic. If you continue like this, you won't be any different from the people you're trying to stop."

Mr. Fantastic: "No chance that's happening. If I were to join the dark side, it would have happened long ago. The temptations were greater back then. And if it does happen, Susan will put me back on the right track."

Invisible Woman: "Like he ever listens to me! Welcome to Nootra, children. The Fantastic 4 and the Alliance will help you. What happened with security yesterday was a misunderstanding. What's your name, little girl?"

Invisible Woman and Noah got to know each other and so did the rest. Then they all came together to raise a plan against the villains. Reed Richard, Samba and Rahan were the brains while the rest put in their contribution.

Mr. Fantastic: "Alliance, what's the situation in the forest at present?"

Tarzan: "Wrath-Amon and Freeza lay down the rule. We haven't contained them yet."

Conan: "It's good we're all here. We'll disband that rebellious group those two set up. They distract the other villains from attaining illumination."

Rahan: "If you want them to attain illumination, Conan, stop calling them villains."

Conan: "Yes, Mister pro-villain. You know what, firehair; I don't want a monster like Wrath-Amon to attain whatsoever illumination. Why should he be at peace after plunging many in waves?"

Invisible Woman: "Lighten up, Conan. There must be some common ground between you two."

Conan: "No way, Susan. Wrath-Amon and I just can't mix; not after what he did to me."

The Thing: "Don't worry, hero; you'll take down your man."

Mr. Fantastic: "Let's review the whole thing. Freeza and Wrath-Amon have allies at large. Since you rescued the kids, they now know the Alliance will fight them. And I'm sure they invited their friends to the party."

Spider-Man: "They too called for backup? Man, you think they'll come in large numbers?"

Samba: "That's why we called you. We would have defeated them yesterday if the sun wasn't setting. Now they had enough time to assemble an army."

Invisible Woman: "Some villains have grown tired of playing the wicked; they won't answer Wrath-Amon's call. I think the fourteen of us will do. We'll definitely outnumber them."

Gohan: "Count Zach and Ryan among our fighters. I saw how well they fought when the villains attacked us yesterday."

Human Torch: "Tell me, dudes; what are your powers? Can you turn into fire like me, or fly to outer space like I do? My powers are fantastic. Yes, I'm the Human Torch."

Ryan: "We have no such powers, but we're agile in combat and skilled in martial arts. We know a lot of fighting techniques."

Human Torch: "There's nothing spectacular about what you just said. I guess I'd be bored fighting by your side."

Mr. Fantastic: "Good! We're sixteen combatants; the villains can't outdo us. Remember, we're heroes and we're good, as our citizens say."

As the final details were being settled, Noah approached Spider-Man with this request.

Noah: "Web head, will you swing with me when this is over?"

Johnny Storm left no time for Spider-Man to respond, but he complained.

Human Torch: "Why does the whole world want Spidey to give them a ride? I won't mind taking you to space, kid."

Invisible Woman: "Use your head for once, Johnny. You're fire and no one wants to be exposed to your flames; though your powers may be amazing."

Spider-Man: "Hey, that last word is reserved for me. You, stick with fantastic and don't encroach on my territory."

The Thing: "Torch, what do you say of testing our new formation on Doom?"

Human Torch: "You took the words out of my mouth, Thing. If the doc shows his face, he'll be doomed for good."

After instructing their comrades how they were going to confront the enemy, Mr. Fantastic, Rahan and Samba finally wrapped up the theoretical part of the operation.

Samba: "Are there more suggestions or any objections? Do you think we stand a chance against Freeza and his team?"

Conan: "Never talk defeat with me, flutist. It's certain we fighting together are stronger than the lots of Wrath-Amons."

Tarzan: "Samba, Reed, Rahan, you're the experts."

Spider-Man: "I have no objections, your honours."

Mr. Fantastic: "The plan is approved. Friends, let's move."

Human Torch: "Finally. I was already getting tired of waiting."

Once the first rays of the sun were visible, the Alliance, Saiyans, and Earthlings walked out of the cave to the place

where the enemy had gathered. They took position to face the gang of villains led by the sinister Freeza and the malevolent Wrath-Amon with Windfang by his side. Their allies were equally present and these were no soft-hearted people: the diehard Saiyans Raditz and Turles, the metallic Dr. Doom, the cosmic Terrax and the many animals under Wrath-Amon's command. When the Alliance and their friends saw the army of villains that had rebelled in the forest, Mr. Fantastic gave these instructions to his comrades.

Mr. Fantastic: "Heroes, now that we know the faces of our adversaries, we separate into groups to confront them. I would dare to say we're lucky since we've fought them before. Gohan, Goten, position yourselves against Turles and Raditz. Trunks, you'll prevail against Freeza. Your future self did it and I know your present self will do it again. Spider-Man, you're strong enough to take down Terrax without assistance. Rahan, Krilin, Samba and Leuk, you stop the animals."

Conan: "Leave Wrath-Amon and Windfang to me. It's personal."

Spider-Man: "Take what he said seriously, everyone. Nobody comes between the big guy and the objects of his wrath."

Mr. Fantastic: "Okay, Conan; Wrath-Amon is yours alone. Who's left?"

Human Torch: "Have you forgotten us, elastic man? I can't believe you forgot your own team when someone is doomed to suffer this morning."

Mr. Fantastic: "Of course not, Johnny; the Fantastic 4 are thumping Dr. Doom. Tarzan, you protect the extra-Nootrans."

Gohan: "What about Ryan and Zach? They're resourceful. Don't leave them out, Mr. Fantastic."

Mr. Fantastic: "Ryan, Zach, you two, be watchful. If you see a hero in a bad situation, step in and rescue them. Have these gadgets. They're some of Batman's toys and can be very useful to those who don't exercise super powers in combat."

Ryan: "Thanks, Mr. Fantastic. We'll do as we're told."

Samba: "With everything set, Alliance, keep the forest safe."

The Thing: "Come on now, heroes; let's do this together."

With these words of Ben Grimm began the fighting in the forest. Each hero went to confront their traditional adversaries. Tarzan protected Noah and Alan. Ryan and Zach stood as the reserve team, ready to respond to emergencies. As the Fantastic Four clashed with Dr. Doom, Invisible Woman tried to dissuade this one from his plans.

Invisible Woman: "Surrender, Victor. We won't let you capture the children."

Dr. Doom: "Don't try to stop me, Susan. These extra-Nootrans are my fortune. My experiments will reach the utmost level once I get information of their world. Then I'll quench my thirst for more energy and conquer the universe."

Human Torch: "Or it might take you a thousand years back. That's not a bad idea, Reed. Maybe we should let him try his luck just this once."

The Thing: "There's some sense in what the kid is saying. How about letting the doc get lost in an age without technologies?"

Human Torch: "I'd love to see his face when he gets there. Imagine Doom trapped in the period prior to the Stone Age; the Ice Age probably. He won't even find a metal to cover himself."

Mr. Fantastic: "Whether the kids' world is advanced or not, this malicious mind mustn't venture there. He's only going to cause havoc."

Dr. Doom: "You must be out of your mind thinking you can stop me. You four put together can't even scratch me. I've beaten you before and I'll do it again."

Invisible Woman: "Beaten us before? You have problems recalling the past or what? It's we who have always beaten you."

The Thing: "And he isn't humble after all that. He goes as far as to tell lies to hide his many failures."

Human Torch: "It's about time someone gave him a lecture on honesty. And I volunteer for the task."

Johnny Storm ignited and fire covered his entire body. He became a torch, which was actually human. Flying high up to outer space, he came down at full speed with a punch for Dr. Doom. Doom dodged the fire punch, but Reed Richard wasn't far away and he got him. Reed stretched out his body all around Doom and tied him up. Once Mr. Fantastic had fastened Doom with his elastic body, Ben Grimm, the man whose skin turned into an orange craggy rock after being exposed to cosmic radiation, came right away to crush him.

Dr. Doom, however, freed himself a second before Ben's double-handed punch trounced him. Ben Grimm hit Reed instead. Seeing that her companions had lost control of the situation, Susan Storm turned invisible and trapped Doom in an invisible barrier she created from her psionic force field. That was when Human Torch finally thumped Dr. Doom with fire punches. So went the combat between the Fantastic 4 and their archenemy Victor Von Doom. Not far from there, another fight was about to begin.

Spider-Man: "Terrax, the Tamer, right? That scythe you carry, isn't it too heavy for you? There's also something I can't make head nor tail. What is a cosmic guy doing in the Frightful Forest? Last time I checked, forest and cosmic didn't rhyme. And don't tell me, Terrax, that you want to hunt game 'cause I'm so not going to believe you."

Terrax: "The Alliance sends a kid to fight Terrax who wields the Power Cosmic? Mr. Fantastic is underestimating my powers and it is you who will pay for that lack of respect."

Spider-Man: "So you wanted to be respected. I see... Is that why you made friends with Wrath-Amon? That was a mistake on your part 'cause Wrath-Amon and his kind aren't respected. They're rather objects of disrespect. And the rest, your cosmic friends, where are they? Don't they love being with the lot of their kind? Or if it is, they were scared of being thrashed by the Alliance?"

Terrax: "I have no time for your silly talk. Out of my way, spider."

Spider-Man: "Make time, Mr. Granite. Wherever you go, you'll find my spider web ready to stop you. Unless you surrender, you and your buddy, Wrath-Amon, are going to be crushed by me and my pals."

Terrax: "You've called for it, Spidey. I won't hold back."

Spider-Man: "Me neither. What are you waiting for? Come and be busted."

The words of Spider-Man put Terrax in a rage. It seemed he had no time for any play talk. He ran headlong towards the hero to smite him with his scythe. The latter, however, released his web. Spider-Man swung from tree to tree, passing his web through, around and over them. Terrax was too agitated in his attempt to catch him that he failed to see the hero raising a web prison around him. He woke up to find himself trapped within a space barricaded by spider web.

Even so, Terrax cut through the webs with his cosmic scythe and broke free. Then he manipulated sand with the Power Cosmic and spattered the dough at Spider-Man. That wasn't counting Spider-Man's spider-sense, which alerted him of danger an instant before. He jumped and narrowly escaped the sand avalanche. Then Spider-Man counterattacked by releasing a web fluid on which Terrax slipped and fell. Terrax's fury increased at this setback and he rose from the ground with an irate face. Yet before wielding his Power Cosmic any further, he received a call. He took off immediately and left. So Spider-Man won against Terrax the Tamer in the Frightful Forest. As Terrax and Spider-Man were clashing, Gohan and Goten were having an unfriendly family discussion with their uncle Raditz and their compatriot Turles.

Raditz: "My nephews, your father led you astray with feelings of pity and compassion. These won't get you anywhere. These things are for inferior beings; not us, Saiyans."

Turles: "A true Saiyan must be without affections; that's the only way to become stronger. These Nootrans find consolation in affection because they don't have the power we Saiyans have. We're called to rule supreme in the

universe, making no room for basic things as love or mercy.”

Goten: “I disagree, Turles. The good heart of our dad has made him the strongest hero to date. Even friends from another world can testify. It’s time you admitted you had it all wrong.”

Raditz: “It’s also time you knew your origins, children. Our race had only one objective: conquer and dominate other planets and peoples. We have the ability to do so for we’re the strongest race there is. Your treacherous father is the one who denies his very essence. Join us now, Gohan, Goten, so we can retrieve Saiyans’ lost glory.”

Gohan: “You’re irretrievable, uncle. Why don’t you understand that fighting for the cause of evil doesn’t make anyone stronger? Look at our people, the Nootrans. Although many don’t have super powers like us, they thrive on those values you refuse to acknowledge. These are the very things that enabled them to acquire great powers like the Saiyans.”

Goten: “We’re wasting our time explaining these things to you because you don’t know what love and justice are all about. You’ve never experienced them so you continue in evil since it’s the only thing you know. That’s why you won’t win.”

Turles: “What do you mean when you talk of evil, little boy? Have you forgotten our destiny? Saiyans are here to rule supreme over all because of the logical fact that we’re the strongest people in the world. These Nootrans and their super powers can’t hold a candle to us. We’re only fulfilling our destiny and I don’t see why people should resist since they’re here to be led by us. It would be wiser for them to submit to their fate, which is inevitable.”

Gohan: “Listen carefully, uncle and Turles before we settle this the hard way. We call what you do ‘evil’ because you want to suppress peoples’ freedoms and put men under your rule. You can’t impose rulership on people against their will. You can’t claim authority over them when they don’t recognize you. There’s no leadership without freedom, and so there’s no destiny if it entails forcing others to do what you want.”

Raditz: "Freedom, love, mercy blah, blah, blah. You Nootrans think you're doing it right to promote these things? You can't change a man's destiny, and we, Saiyans, are the people who know our destiny. It's justice that Saiyans rule this world."

Goten: "I bet your moms didn't hug you when you were kids, but that's no excuse for you to be this way. I know people who haven't received the affection of their parents; some were even despised by their own. That, however, didn't stop them from loving and caring for others. Some went so far as to help the people who once tried to harm them. You can as well learn something from their story. Uncle, Turles, you must find yourselves a reason in life other than trying to dominate people."

Turles: "It's pathetic to hear Saiyans talk this way. You're a disgrace to your people. Our proud race won't tolerate the likes of you. That's why you shall be eliminated."

Gohan: "Try if you can. My brother and I are Super Saiyans, but you two haven't attained that level yet and you think you can beat us? That's presumptuous of you. And one thing you mustn't forget: we're the sons of Goku."

Raditz: "When we're done with you, we'll go for that traitor you call father. He's at the root of all this humiliation."

Goten: "You must first pass through us and I doubt you can. You have only threats to make, but we're here to champion a just cause; that's why we'll defeat you. Niisan, we're holding them a party."

Turles: "Raditz, let's wipe these traitors off our world for good."

Gohan: "Be my guest, Turles."

Thus the confrontation between the two groups of Saiyans began. Turles targeted Gohan with an energy wave. Gohan countered with his own wave and pushed it back, thrusting Turles rearward. Gohan transformed into Super Saiyan. His hair turned gold, his eyes changed to green and his body and outfit were lighter. The moment Son Gohan transformed, his force intensified and his energy wave became more powerful than Turles', pushing

the latter a thousand miles into the distant forest. Meanwhile, Goten and Raditz had engaged a close range combat. They were exchanging fists and leg strikes in quick succession. Goten was faster, but Raditz grew weary from the endless punches. When Goten realized that his opponent showed a sign of fatigue, he transformed into Super Saiyan and thumped him in the stomach. This mighty energy punch instantly knocked out Raditz.

As the sons of Goku were fighting the evil Saiyans, the Fantastic 4 were facing Dr. Doom and Spider-Man was duelling Terrax. At this same moment, Conan and Wrath-Amon were almost entering into battle. Rahan, Krilin, Samba and Leuk were driving off the beasts surrounding them. As for Tarzan, he was watching over Noah and Alan while Ryan and Zach were on the alert against any eventuality. Trunks, on his part, was about to have a rematch of a previous combat with Freeza, which he was completely unaware of.

7 FIGHTING IN THE FOREST

A battle opposing the Alliance to the villains was taking place in the forest. These combats started when the villains attacked Gohan and his companions as they travelled to the northern secret base. The Alliance helped them escape the clutches of Freeza and Wrath-Amon, and Saiyans and Earthlings took refuge in a cave where they met the five members of the Alliance: Rahan, Tarzan, Samba, Leuk and Conan. To put an end to the rebellion, which Wrath-Amon and Freeza started in the forest, the Alliance needed backup. They turned to their guest members Spider-Man, Mr. Fantastic, Invisible Woman, Human Torch and The Thing. At dawn, the heroes came out of the cave that served as their hideout for the night and faced the villains. These too had strengthened their ranks with Dr. Doom, Terrax, Raditz and Turles.

The first clashes began and the Fantastic 4 fought Dr. Doom. Spider-Man overcame Terrax while Goten and Gohan trounced Raditz and Turles. In another place, Conan was confronting Wrath-Amon and Windfang, his henchman.

Conan: "Always at your evil schemes, Wrath-Amon? I'll enjoy making you pay for what you've done to countless people."

Wrath-Amon: "You mean you care about those people, or is it revenge you're seeking?"

Conan: "I'm here to stop you. No other man will suffer from your wicked deeds anymore."

Wrath-Amon: "This thing you're in called Alliance can't make you a hero. No matter how hard you try, Conan, you'll always remain a brute. Once a barbarian, always a savage."

Ryan: "Don't listen to him, Conan. He prattles on to make you lose faith. I know you're a hero. I saw you like that on Earth."

Conan: "Wrath-Amon, you'd better retire or your disgrace will be total."

Wrath-Amon: "You worry about my reputation? I'm flattered. You should rather worry about your friend over there."

Windfang captured Zach, displayed his wings and took off. Ryan responded promptly by getting to a tall tree. He climbed it as if climbing a staircase and overtaking Windfang, he struck him with a leg and stopped him from going any higher. This attack brought Windfang back to the ground and as he was falling, his grip on Zach slackened and Zach made a swift move and freed himself. When all of them reached the ground, Ryan and Zach braced themselves to fight the winged creature.

Zach: "Let's show him there are also good fighters on Earth."

Ryan: "Conan, concentrate on Wrath-Amon. We'll deal with Windfang."

Conan: "My friends have more than one trick up their sleeves. Now, where were we, monster?"

Wrath-Amon: "I've had enough of you, barbarian. I'm going to show you something."

Conan: "Pretty good 'cause I too have something to show you."

Conan and Wrath-Amon came running towards each other and clashed noisily. Conan pulled out his magic sword to fight Wrath-Amon, but this one was smart enough to dodge the attacks. It happened that Wrath-Amon stripped Conan of his sword and tried to strike him, but Conan used his shield to defend himself. Slapping Wrath-Amon's hand, the sword fell aside, and then the two engaged in a close range combat without weapons. Wrath-Amon pushed Conan, who also dragged him along in his fall. That part of forest being slippery, they rolled a certain distance while continuing to exchange blows. Conan's blows were more on Wrath-Amon than the latter's blows were on him. Wrath-Amon could no longer resist the hero's fists so he called Windfang to take him away. So Conan defeated his foe.

As for Zach and Ryan, they were brilliant against Windfang. They used arms and legs to release punches and

strikes. Zach retreated behind Windfang and Ryan remained in front of him. They did a combined attack, which Windfang didn't see coming. Zach jumped from the ground and smote Windfang with both feet while landing on his shoulders. This one caught him with his wings and tried to fling him away, but Ryan unleashed a series of swift fists in his stomach, which left Windfang breathless.

Windfang went one knee on the ground and Zach took advantage of his defenceless position to electrocute him with a gear, which was among Mr. Fantastic's gadgets. Before Windfang retaliated, Wrath-Amon called him to rescue him from the hands of Conan. He retreated to his master and carried him away from the zone. During this time, Rahan, Samba, Leuk and Krilin were fighting the ferocious animals.

Rahan: "This one is for me, Samba; it's Wrath-Amon's pet. I think I can handle it."

Samba: "Look out, Rahan! Its bites are poisonous."

Rahan: "It can't hurt me; I'm immune to their bites. Watch how I calm this one."

Leuk: "I wouldn't want to be in his place."

Rahan fought the beast and wounded it with his knife.

Rahan: "What did I tell you? My only regret is that those-who-walk-on-four-feet act under Wrath-Amon's manipulation and have to pay a high price for that."

Krilin: "There's no time for regrets, firehair. If you don't get rid of them, it's them who'll get rid of you."

Samba: The forest will heal them before sunset and the charm will disappear. Be watchful, comrades; I sense more coming. Look out, Leuk! Here comes another one!"

Leuk: "Oh, no; a whole lot of them. Who sent me here?"

Krilin: "Don't worry, friend; I've got your back."

Leuk: "When I think I should be quietly lying in bed!"

Rahan: "Samba, let's stand back to back and fight them."

Leuk: "And where do I stand?"

Krilin: "Leuk, we'll do the same as Samba and Rahan. These beasts can't be more than us. Leuk, do you hear me?"

Samba: "Have courage, friend and leave fear behind. Remember that you too belong to the Alliance. You're a hero, Leuk."

Leuk: "Samba is counting on me; everyone is counting on me and I won't let them down. Even the Earthlings are courageously fighting the villains. I can do it. Krilin, I'm with you."

Samba: "Welcome back, Leuk. At the signal, we go take all of them down. On your marks."

Leuk: "Get set."

Krilin: "Go!"

Rahan (yells): "Raaahaaan..."

Krilin, Leuk, Samba and Rahan went fighting the beasts, which Wrath-Amon sent against the Alliance, and they neutralized them. Three of the animals, however, escaped the fighters and reached the place where Noah and Alan were and threatened them. Luckily, Tarzan wasn't far away and he came to their rescue. He took them to safety on the branches of a tall tree. The beasts didn't give up, but continued to prowl around the tree and roar with such noise that frightened the children.

Tarzan: "Don't fear, Noah, Alan; they won't hurt you. I'm here to protect you and no one will touch any of your hair. You see that big tree over there? You'll get there in a snap; if you trust me, of course."

Noah: "Don't even doubt it for a second, Tarzan. We know you'll do everything to protect us."

Alan: "We trust you all right, but tell me how we're getting to that tree and escaping from this nightmare."

Tarzan caught a long dangling creeper and told Noah and Alan to hold it tight.

Noah: "Al, are you thinking what I'm thinking?"

Alan: "Oh, yes. I'm so going to enjoy this."

Tarzan: "Grip the creeper as tightly as you can, children. Whatever the case, don't stop holding until you get to the tree. Once you're there, let it go and cling to the branches. Have you copied?"

Alan: "Copied that, Tarzan. It's your turn to trust us. Noah, we're in for a ride."

Noah and Alan held the creeper tightly and Tarzan pushed them with all his strength to the tree on the other side. Noah and Alan swung in Tarzan's style, yelling as they traversed the hollow. On reaching the other side, they let go of the creeper, caught the branches, and stood on the tree. Tarzan was surprised to hear them yell like him and he shouted to them.

Tarzan: "Hey, who taught you that?"

But the beasts didn't allow him to hear the children's response. Two animals climbed on the tree and roared against him, showing off their claws. They pushed him to the ground and the three beasts encircled the jungle boy, and then fell voraciously on him. Noah and Alan had reached the other side safely and they watched from there. They howled with fear on seeing Tarzan in that situation. But Tarzan bravely fought the beasts and broke free from their grasp. He took them on a therapy, and looking into their eyes, talked to them, calmed them down and eventually tamed them. Tarzan then called out to the Earthlings.

Tarzan: "Noah, Alan, I would like you to meet some friends here."

Alan and Noah shouted with relief on seeing Tarzan safe. The beasts withdrew after being appeased and they no longer attacked the heroes. When Tarzan was fighting the beasts, Trunks, the Saiyan, was settling matters with Freeza.

Freeza: "Trunks, dare you attack me again? I'm not the same Freeza you defeated last time. I've become stronger since I came back from the Other Dimension. How I longed for the day to smash you like a little insect under my foot. And that day has finally come."

Trunks: “You should have remained in the Other Dimension for the likes of you don’t have their place here. And will you leave the inhabitants of the forest in peace? Let them achieve self-realization and happiness in this sacred environment.”

Freeza: “I refuse. I need them to achieve my goal. I will do everything to prevent them from undergoing that brainwashing you call illumination. But for now, my revenge alone matters. You frustrated my plans years ago and today, well, today somebody will have to suffer for what they did.”

Trunks: “I don’t remember exactly what I did to you, but it must have been fun. The Earthlings said something about Future Trunks and Mr. Fantastic confirmed that I once beat you. I’d be glad to do it again.”

Freeza: “What; you don’t remember? How dare you? Yes, yes, yes, I see. Everything is clear now. It was you from the future that came to my timeline and destroyed me. Hahaha! I guess you’re not as strong as Future Trunks. Hahaha! It doesn’t even matter; whether it was you or not, it changes nothing. I’m stronger than anybody now and I’ll avenge myself on you.”

Trunks: “It makes no difference to me either, though I can’t understand how some people still take the same road that led them to destruction, even when they’re given a second chance. Freeza, you should have behaved wisely in the forest and you would have been rehabilitated.”

Freeza: “You think I want such thing as rehabilitation? I will conquer Nootra and all of you super losers will bow to me.”

Trunks: “Never. Freeza, you shall be frozen by this sword, which my friend Tapion²¹ entrusted to me.”

Once Trunks drew his sword, Freeza targeted him with sharp fiery rays from his eyes. Trunks shifted, disappeared and appeared here and there and avoided them. He hid behind a tree and Freeza looked everywhere and didn’t find him. When Freeza turned in the opposite direction, the

²¹ Tapion is the protagonist of *Dragon Ball Z: Wrath of the Dragon* (1995), DBZ 13th movie.

Saiyan came behind him and raised his sword to strike him. Freeza sensed the attack and turned around just in time to stop the blade with both his palms. He continued to resist Trunks, who took a few steps back. Observing that Trunks couldn't stand firm, Freeza stretched out a leg and struck him and he fell down. Freeza formed a fire sword from his own energy, and both engaged a battle opposing one sword to another.

Trunks' fist soon became mightier than Freeza's as he wielded Tapon's sword, his lucky charm. He concentrated all his energy on his sword and came down on Freeza with one mighty strike, which consumed the energy in the villain's sword. Freeza's sword vanished and Trunks continued to strike him repeatedly until Freeza had no energy left. He finally went down and Trunks brought down his sword on him. Seeing that he was beaten, Freeza pleaded.

Freeza: "Mercy me. I promise not to trouble villains in the forest again. Only, spare me. This place is better to me than the Other Dimension."

Trunks: "What was that again; that you were stronger than me? And I didn't even transform into Super Saiyan! Face the fact, Freeza; whether future or present, Trunks is your weakness. But since I am Present Trunks, you won't be locked up in the Other Dimension. Keep your word and tell your gang to stand down, and disband immediately."

The allies of the villains fled after seeing that they were defeated. Freeza also called his band and they all shied away and dispersed in the forest. Before the sun had gone half its course, the determination and goodwill of the heroes prevailed. They were fighting for a good cause so they overpowered the villains, as good always overcame evil. They all punched the air and shouted out their victory. The heroes once again assembled in the cave to talk about their combats. Before parting from each other, the Alliance thanked the reinforcement for their assistance.

Mr. Fantastic: "You can always count on us. The forest will be quiet for a while now that this evil band is weakened."

Human Torch: "I doubt Freeza will keep his promise, but we'll be ready to crush them anytime."

Rahan: "Don't be pessimistic, Torch. Freeza sounded sincere when he answered Trunks."

Spider-Man: "Terrax fled after receiving a call. I'm sure he did that on purpose, knowing he couldn't beat me. If you only saw how my web shooters scared him."

Human Torch: "Show-off! Cut the cosmic guy some slack, web head. I think he really had an emergency."

Spider-Man: "Don't be jealous, Torch; you too weren't bad against Doom. Anyway, I finished my fight early enough to watch some of you. Zach and Ryan impressed me the most. Windfang couldn't predict any of their moves."

Conan: "And you say there are no superheroes on Earth!"

Gohan: "Spidey, FF, why did you help us when NSF is after the Terrians?"

The Thing: "It's a sacrilege to forsake a friend. Samba called, we answered; that's the Alliance. We're loyal to each other whatever the case."

Invisible Woman: "HQ may consider the Earthlings trespassers yet we couldn't just leave all of you suffer at the hands of those savages."

Mr. Fantastic: "These little ones can't be foes. The proof - they helped us defeat the enemies of Nootra. I'll testify about it to NSF."

The Thing: "Why not nominate them for the Nootra Award?"

Human Torch: "Extra-Nootrans winning the MAC? Impossible! If anyone has to win it, it must be me."

Invisible Woman: "You big-headed! Can't you think of anything apart from yourself?"

Human Torch: "What else is there besides me?"

Mr Fantastic: "Heroes, I'll dare say you were all fantastic. And Trunks, you amazed me. See, I told you that you would have Freeza. He can't do anything against you."

Trunks: "Thanks, Mr. Fantastic. So the plot the Earthlings told me about was true. It means before I was born, I came

from the future and defeated Freeza? Did my parents know?"

The Thing: "Not your mother, but Vegeta. How could you possibly hide anything like that from him?"

Ryan: "Before you leave heroes, can anyone tell me where to find Agape? Fantastic 4, you're explorers and you travel to distant worlds. Have you got an idea?"

The Thing: "Kid, don't you know that Agape is invisible?"

Alan: "My friend's dream is to meet Him. Please, help us if you can."

Zach: "From what we heard from the Alliance, it's obvious Nootrans know a lot about Him."

Human Torch: "Didn't I hear Gohan say it was on your planet that He came? You're the ones to tell us more about Him, Earthies."

Ryan: "But He left long ago, even before I was born. I thought He might be on another planet."

Spider-Man: "What I know is that He's everywhere; that's why we can't see Him."

Tarzan: "I sometimes feel His presence when I'm in the forest in the quiet of the night, as a man senses the presence of another man."

Human Torch: "Never happened to me, jungle boy. It's only you who can sense the presence of a man when you don't see him."

Mr. Fantastic: "Agape is invisible yet if it wasn't for Him, no one would survive this life of ours, which is in jeopardy all the time. That's how I know He is."

Human Torch: "When I was growing up, my dad told me that He lives permanently in me; not so, Sue?"

Invisible Woman: "He lives in every man. I can see Him in Johnny, Ben, Reed and all of you."

Rahan: "I know He indwells us, but like Ryan, I'd like to see Him outside those-who-walk-on-two-feet. I'm confident I'll see Him when I get to the place where the sun sets."

Ryan: "The astonishing thing is that you know Him, you who are supposed to be cartoon characters."

The Thing: “Of course we know Him. What did you take us for; ignorant folks? It’s not because you discover it now that it hasn’t always been so. You act as someone who receives a revelation at a set time and is excited, thinking he’s the first to grasp it when countless people knew it already.”

Alan: “On Earth, talking about Him is a sensitive issue since people have different beliefs concerning Him. That’s why we’re surprised to hear you talk about Him freely without any complex.”

Mr. Fantastic: “I saw that kind of attitude on a planet we visited. This led me to the conclusion that people fear what they don’t know. Maybe your people react that way because they don’t have the right knowledge of who Agape is. I have never seen anyone reject His grace once they have experienced it. It’s impossible for a human to do so. There’s absolute beauty in His person when He’s known exactly as He is.

‘Every man loves beauty. No man will refuse something beautiful when it’s offered free; unless they’re being proud, hypocritical, fearful or they haven’t yet perceived the beauty of the thing. It’s up to you, Earthlings to find out where you failed. Trace that point, which caused your people to misunderstand the message. Once you correct that, you’ll fix everything.”

The Thing: “By the way, how can a man reject himself? The only reason a man may think hostilely towards Agape is that he has failed to see that he is in Him and that there’s nothing like a man outside of the union with Him. The essence of man is his oneness with Agape. Our incorporation into Him is what makes us men. Man is defined as that person who is joined to Agape and partakes of all that He is and all that is in Him. Outside of Him, there is no man.”

Tarzan: “Ben is right. The secret of man’s fulfilment is the knowledge that we’re already perfect in Him. We had no part to play for this to be. He played our part by assuming every aspect of our life and giving us the crowning piece in His glorified body into which He incorporated us.”

Invisible Woman: “Diversities of beliefs, opinions and attitudes can’t stop people from being together and loving each other. These divisions are only in our minds for truth is, we’re one people. This is what our ancestors saw when they founded this city. Living together doesn’t necessarily mean agreeing with someone. It means accepting people as they are, though we may not believe the same thing. What we can’t deny is that we’re of one essence and whatever difference we acquire in this world can’t outweigh our fundamental nature of human being. We mustn’t fear difference, but see every man as part of us since we are all in the one body of the Son.”

Mr. Fantastic: “I love your quest, Ryan; I encourage you to never give up. You’ll learn a lot through it and one day, you’ll see Him face-to-face just as you see me now. But don’t be surprised if you find Him to be a man.”

Ryan: “I knew cartoons were humans though it sounded like fantasy to many. This meeting with you is a confirmation. Having seen you face-to-face, I know I’ll see Him face-to-face. He’s my ultimate dream.”

Spider-Man: “Is it just me or don’t these guys disrespect us by calling us cartoons, as if we were some actors in a show?”

Human Torch: “That’s how the entire Earth recognizes us, Spidey. In their world, people they know whom they’ve never met and who live on other planets are called cartoons.”

The Thing: “I pretend I didn’t hear that crap, Johnny.”

Conan: “Ryan, your dream of meeting Agape is big. It’s good to have big dreams; life becomes even more interesting with them.”

Noah: “Yes, big dreams pay. They take you where you want, like us in Nootra and me swinging with Spider-Man. Spidey, do you remember my request?”

Spider-Man: “Sorry Noah, but that will be for another time. We’re agents and assignments await us. What’s important now is to keep you safe.”

Mr. Fantastic: “Gohan, we trust you to take our visitors safely to the base.”

Gohan: "Count on us, Mr. Fantastic. Farewell friends."

The reinforcement left and in his turn, Gohan showed his gratitude to Samba, Leuk, Rahan, Conan, and Tarzan.

Samba: "It was a pleasure, friend. We're honoured to help those-who-walk-on-two-feet whenever they're in trouble."

Conan: "Hey Samba, you're talking like Rahan there."

Krilin: "We have to be going now. These villains are tireless. You can't tell what they might be up to next."

Noah: "Will I see you again, Rahan?"

Rahan: "Certainly, friend; we doubtless shall meet again. When people love each other, they surely meet and meet again and again."

Noah: "You heard that, guys? Rahan called me his friend and said we'll meet again."

Zach: "Little wonder since you're an expert in making friends with whoever you meet."

Tarzan: "Our encounter with you, Earthlings made me see that men from every galaxy and dimension are the same. We live in this world in relationship and are here to be with one another. We're all from one stock, of one heart and are destined for a common happiness."

Goten: "People from different worlds getting along just fine. Terrific!"

Trunks: "Even more intriguing is that they know all of us. The people of planet Earth know the people of Nootra. I can't figure this out. It means information circulate among dimensions."

Conan: "Zach and Ryan proved to me that they knew me well and trusted me. What do you call them again? Those cartoonists are truly inspired by Agape to be able to portray the lives of people living in other worlds."

Leuk: "Beautiful words, but time is passing and I'm not sleeping here another night. Come on; you must leave now."

Samba: "Take the greetings of the Alliance to companions at L4."

Gohan: "You have our word, Samba. Goodbye friends."

Son Gohan, Son Goten, Krilin, Trunks bearing Zach, Noah, Alan and Ryan parted from Tarzan, Conan, Rahan, Samba and Leuk and headed for Secret Base L4.

8 SECRET BASE L4

Ryan, Noah, Zach and Alan lived the miraculous by their supernatural presence in Nootra, home world of comics' heroes. They first met Denver, the dinosaur, and his companions. Then they met Batman, Hawkeye, his daughter Rain, Cesare, Yann, Superman, Captain Nootra, the Ninja Turtles, Shredder and Saiyans. They faced opposition when Nootra's security agents took them for intruders and chased them. The Saiyans decided to take them to a secret base in north Nootra to find help for their return to Earth. Going over the Frightful Forest, some villains attacked them, but the Alliance, namely Rahan, Conan, Samba, Leuk and Tarzan, plus their guest members the Fantastic 4 and Spider-Man, joined them and together, they defeated Freeza, Wrath-Amon, and their allies, including Windfang, Turles, Raditz, Dr. Doom, Terrax with the animals that had rallied behind them.

After eliminating the opposition in the Frightful Forest, Son Gohan, Son Goten, Krilin, Trunks, Noah, Alan, Ryan and Zach continued on their journey to the northern secret base. There was a wide sea immediately after the forest leading to L4. Having crossed it, they came to a deserted place, an extensive flat territory void of anything. Son Gohan asked his companions to land, but some wondered.

Goten: "Why do we take a break when there's still a great distance to cover? I can go on for another four hours before I'm exhausted."

Krilin: "There's nothing on the horizon, Gohan."

Gohan: "Don't always trust perception, Krilin. We're exactly where we're supposed to be."

Trunks: "You mean we've arrived at L4? But there's nothing in this place."

Son Gohan gave a signal by clicking his fingers, clapping his hands, and stamping his feet a number of times, following an order.

Goten: "Thanks for the jesting, brother. While we're at it, you can as well perform the choreography mom taught us on the Dance of Shamans."

Krilin: "Seriously, Gohan; do you have to play ridiculous at this hour?"

Zach: "What he's doing must have a meaning. Anybody has an idea?"

Goten: "I was a child the last time I came here. I don't remember how things used to be done."

Krilin: "I've never been here so don't ask me about the clowning."

Trunks: "I've seen something similar before. It's a code for accessing the base. It may appear simple, but you need total concentration to do what he's doing there. He must perform each movement correctly without missing any, or else he will be denied."

Ryan: "Watch, guys; something is coming up."

When Son Gohan finished the ritual, a magnetic water-like flux, as big as a door, appeared. Son Gohan asked his companions to follow him and as they stepped closer, the magnetic fluid drew them and pulled them inside. The traverse was instantaneous for it seemed they only crossed a door. On reaching the other side, they found themselves in a place harbouring an immense building stretching to the sky. It covered a fantastic land surface to unseen horizons. It was nothing some of them had seen before. A noble hero was standing at the entrance of the building.

Alan: "Getting better and better!"

Ryan: "And we're only at the gates."

Zach: "There was a fault in the representation of his armour."

Noah: "He's way too sublime."

Goten (to his comrades): "It can't be helped. They're uncontrollable when they see a hero for the first time, as Mario said."

Gohan: "Guys, sorry to interrupt this moment of ecstasy, but we have to move forward."

Son Gohan walked to Iron Man,²² L4's guard, and asked access to the building. Iron Man, in return, asked the motive for their visit.

Gohan: "These friends from planet Earth were accidentally transported to Nootra. We brought them here so you can help them find their way back home. I know you have experts in all science and technologies at L4, you yourself being one of them, Iron Man."

Iron Man: "So these are the aliens Headquarters is looking for? Well, sorry you've been in jeopardy in the Frightful Forest for nothing. I shall hand you over to Central."

The Saiyans and the Earthlings were taken aback and couldn't believe what Iron Man just said. Alan, who was particularly fond of the armoured hero, spoke out without restraint.

Alan: "The Iron Man I know can't do that."

Iron Man: "Really? You think you know me? And why can't Iron Man do that?"

Alan: "Because you're a man of honour. You're committed to doing good no matter what the rules or authorities say. If you act otherwise by handing us over to our trackers, I would feel bad because you would have disappointed. The worst thing would be that everything I ever believed about you would turn out to be a lie."

Iron Man: "So you extra-Nootrans don't respect order? Another good reason to hand you over to Superman and his friends of Central. By the way, what did you even think about me; that I was a hero or something? I'm not sorry to disappoint you 'cause I no longer play that stuff. Does anyone care to know what I've become?"

Alan: "This is not my hero Iron Man. What happened to you? So far, the people we've met have proved themselves faithful to their personalities. Are you sure you're not an impostor, sir?"

²² Iron Man ('Tony' Stark) is a superhero in Marvel Comics. He was created by writer-editor Stan Lee, developed by scripter Larry Lieber, and designed by Don Heck and Jack Kirby. He first appeared in *Tales of Suspense* #39 (Mar. 1963).

Iron Man: "That's a good one: an impostor suspecting me of being one. In passing, kid; am I really your hero? It's a while since anybody considered me that; ever since I was reduced to being the guard of Nootra's remotest base. Citizens don't pass this way and superheroes are not impressed. Tell me, little one; are there more people on Earth who love me as you do?"

Noah: "Yes. There are comics, cartoons and even films about you, Tony Stark."

Iron Man: "And you know my secret identity! Terrestrials, you've passed the test. You've proved you have a noble spirit and are worthy to get in L4; for no undeserving one shall trespass."

Gohan: "You see why we brought you here? L4 is an integral unit of NSF, but they're not directly accountable to Central, like the Alliance. This is how we decentralize our civilization. Friends, you'll be safe in the care of the honourable heroes here."

Iron Man: "You're right, kid; I would be a monster to betray those who come seek refuge from me. Hit here, buddy; I'm touched you trust my integrity."

Alan hit Iron Man's iron fist. The other Earthlings, Saiyans, and Krilin came closer to touch his magnificent armour. Iron Man exhibited the many abilities of his armour and they were happy to see the amazing things his chainmail could do. Something, however, disturbed Alan.

Alan: "Iron Man, why do you occupy the post of a guard here? Sure, this building is impressive yet being a guard doesn't suit you, neither does it Batman. Your powers deserve greater functions."

Iron Man: "Nootra is populated by superheroes. People like us who have had enough of combat become watchmen."

Zach: "If I had some armour like yours, Iron Man, I wouldn't tire of working out every day."

Ryan: "Yes, because heroes don't have enough of combat until the final battle is won."

Iron Man: "I see you know our creed very well, little Earthling. Yet there comes a time of self-realization where you determine the most precious thing in your life, and you won't lose it for anything."

Noah: "What did you find, Iron Man?"

Iron Man: "My family: my spouse, my children, parents, siblings, relatives. I found the joy of living in a family and that is the happiness I had been searching. So I keep it."

Noah: "You mean Tony Stark has settled down for real?"

Zach: "You're lucky; I can't say the same about my family. I don't get along with some quite well."

Iron Man: "Kid, keep in mind that you're peculiar. Don't envy anyone for you're the only one of your kind. You can't be found in any place, at any time, in any person except in you. You're here to do something only you can. It won't happen if you don't do it because apart from you, no one else can do. The beauty of a man is his particularity. That's what makes him a landmark in the world.

'People are unique; we're complements and gifts to one another; not their copies. We were made many to be different. Different, not in terms of division, but different because even if we live together, we're not clones, but we enrich other people's lives with what is peculiar to us. Not everybody can do everything. One does this, the other does that; one is funny, the other is grave. Unity means living with people by accepting them as they are though we don't have the same personalities. We choose to draw from their difference and enrich our lives with what they offer. That's what I found and what I'm living in my family."

Noah: "I've never heard Iron Man talk this way, but I know one who's a pain in the neck back at home. I wonder why we were born in the same family."

Iron Man: "Child, each moment of our life is precious and we must live up to the challenges that come with it. Learn to see things beyond everyday routines and you'll find that your family is the best gift you have. The family is the place to appreciate variety among men though many of us have had a wrong start. But I've made up for the losses and now I treasure it above all. I came to understand that changing

the world is having a sound family. The family is the world in its basic unit and a family in unity is the vessel that receives the blessings of Agape."

Ryan: "I know something about it. But Iron Man, you have to fight to protect it."

Iron Man: "What are friends made for? I've fought villains all my life and when I found my family, I entrusted Nootra's defence to friends and the security forces. What I can do best is to be there for my family and do this petty job."

Gohan: "No job is ever too small. The least you do is indispensable to society. If L4 had no guard, the heroes inside wouldn't do their job well."

Zach: "Iron Man, you talk of these things as if they were easily achieved. You yourself said you had a wrong start with your family. These wrong starts are the source of the breakdowns and losses people encounter in their lives. They mark you forever and not everyone gets over them after that."

Iron Man: "You can't change people and even if you could, you would be a dictator since you would want them to agree with you. Not even Agape did that. Each of us has our own reality and it's hard for someone to see the reality of another. Some people only consider their own realities and forget that others don't see things the same way. That's why it's fundamental that all men know truth. Those of us who know truth have a responsibility to bear with others. And by our faith and commitment, you'll see we'll transform everything into good."

Alan: "What about people who are already broken? How do you restore them?"

Iron Man: "Alan, restoring doesn't mean returning to the past and fixing things. Sometimes, those things are irreparable since conditions at present can't be the same as in the past. Something is indispensable for restoration to take place - forgiveness. Forgiveness here means giving no weight, no consideration or value to what you did or didn't do or to what others did or didn't do that produced those breakdowns in your life. You have to free yourself

and others by letting go of the offence, taking it lightly, smiling whenever it crosses your mind. You must stop being in the skin of the victim, but be the builder of your life by committing yourself to making your family the best place in the world.

“The world is nothing but the people who live there, and these people live in families. Saving the world is first of all saving a man and his family. If every man saves his family, the world is saved. Man always lives in a family; as a child, sibling, spouse, parent, partner, teammate, colleague and in the many kinds of relationships there are in the world. If he failed the first step, he still has the many steps following, and at some point, he’ll get it and have his life restored.”

Krilin: “Man is the most complex being in the cosmos. Each man is a universe to explore. We’re called to be tolerant towards each other and to choose to accept people as they are. If everyone comes to understand these things, we’ll succeed in our relationships and evil will be erased.”

Noah: “Why should it always be you to be tolerant? Why can’t others also see your reality and make efforts to understand you? It’s so unfair.”

Iron Man: “If you reached Nootra just by believing, this tells me you’re not like others. Faith is the simplest thing there is. It’s the first virtue you demonstrate when you’re born: you believe all things. Sadly, when people grow up, their perception distorts their faith and they tend to consider only what they sense. By so doing, they fail to see their childhood dreams realize. For the true dreams of a man are the ones he has when he’s a child.”

Gohan: “People try to attain their objectives by doing when there’s a simpler way of attaining our dreams - by always believing. Noah, count yourself happy to know these things for not everyone can appreciate them. If you have the mind that makes you accept others as they are without judging them, you’re distinguished among men because you create peace in your environment.

‘Pikkoro taught me that peace is man’s most precious asset. This gift is for those who’re willing to end all strife within and without. Nothing good, not even the family, can

be appreciated for what it is if there's absence of peace. You may have whatever you want, but if you lack peace, you won't be able to enjoy them. Peace is vital to life and life is a burden without it. As a peacemaker, Noah, you're a beautiful force of nature that keeps the world happy. That's why the cosmos will collaborate with you and supernatural things like this will happen to you, as they happen to us in Nootra."

Iron Man: "You've made my day, children. At least now, some people know what Iron Man is presently. Get in; the men inside will help you find the route to Earth. There are only geniuses in L4. Let me know when you're leaving. I have War Machine's²³ armour and I'd gladly give it to you."

Krilin: "Their world isn't like ours, Iron Man. Your equipment might only cause them trouble."

Alan: "Krilin is right. All we ask is your friendship and autograph."

Iron Man: "Long time anyone asked me those. I told you admirers are rare in L4. Here you are - the Iron Man badge with my signature for every one of you."

Goten: "Hey, I didn't ask for that."

Trunks (whispers to Goten): "Take it or he might change his mind about letting us visiting the base."

Noah: "You're too cool, iron head."

After giving directives concerning the Earthlings to Iron Man, Son Gohan and Krilin left their companions in his care. Iron Man opened the doors and Trunks, Goten and the four Earthlings entered the multiplex. They were stunned when they found themselves within the construction. L4 was an impressive sight of colossal buildings of various sizes, adorned with high-tech materials. The facility served as a fighting base, exposing all types of terrain for combat. Administratively, each building within the structure was a unit, a distinct entity with particular features for specific functions. Units with

²³ The War Machine armour was designed by Len Kaminski and Kevin Hopgood. War Machine (James Rupert 'Rhodey' Rhodes) is a superhero in Marvel Comics. He first appears in *Iron Man #118* (Jan. 1979) and was created by David Michelinie, John Byrne, and Bob Layton.

complementary functions were aligned one against the other to form blocks. A block was a division of a number of units, geographically separated from other blocks. A central control unit regulated the base's activities.

What struck the children as they progressed through L4 was that the base was all about training. It was a training centre equipped with sophisticated armouries and infrastructure for every kind of martial exercise. A large number of people were there and nearly all were training. Some did it on land, others in water and others in the air. This roused the spirits of Ryan and Zach and they asked Trunks and Goten to train them. The Saiyans were only too pleased to do so.

Goten: "You can't be in L4 and not just train."

Trunks: "Like when we were kids! Dad used to bring us here so we could progress quickly."

Noah: "How was it like to be trained by Vegeta?"

Goten: "Vegeta wasn't a soft teacher. My dad didn't always approve his methods."

Trunks: "Time flies so fast. I can't believe the progress we've made so far."

Goten: "Here we are, mentors ourselves. Where do we begin, friends? What do you want to learn first?"

Zach: "What I want to know first and foremost is how to fly."

Trunks: "I'm surprised you can't fly with all the skills you have."

Alan: "Are you kidding me? It's merely impossible to fly on Earth."

Zach: "Don't worry, Al; I'll know how to fly in no time. Let's start, Goten-sensei."

Without wasting any more time, Ryan and Zach went to work. Their sensei, Goten and Trunks, although not the best in their profession, taught them some concepts and moves on the art of flying. Their students, on the other hand, were too willing to learn. Their determination prevailed despite the clumsiness of their novice teachers, and it happened that after a few hours of training, Ryan

and Zach could fly. While these four were in the process of learning, Alan and Noah went to visit the base. They entered some kind of locomotive that stopped at each unit, and they stepped out to explore. They crossed many buildings, and came across countless heroes committed to the good cause. The two Earthlings were over the moon as they received hearty greetings from superheroes. Their tour led them to a special site. This building was different from the rest in respect of its size. It was enormous and being the tallest of the base, it extended sky high. It was located in the centre of the base and appeared to be the central control unit.

As Noah and Alan stood there, trying to see through the glass walls what was going on inside, they sensed someone coming behind them. They saw his reflection in the glass and recognized his form. The two children turned round to see the one walking towards them. He was far taller and way bigger than any of the heroes they had met in Nootra. Noah and Alan were motionless, totally captivated by the sight.

Alan: "This world; it's beyond my wildest dreams!"

9 MEETING THE AUTOBOTS

Ryan, Alan, Zach, Noah, Trunks and Son Goten were in Secret Base L4. Persuaded of their nobility, Iron Man, guard of the base, granted them the privilege of visiting Nootra's most prominent training centre. Son Gohan and Krilin entrusted them to the heroes of L4, knowing their new friends were safe. Ryan and Zach took advantage of the situation to practice the art of flying through the guidance of Trunks and Goten. While their comrades were training, Alan and Noah toured the many units of L4. In the course of visiting, they reached the tallest building of the construction. It was then that they sensed him coming behind them. They turned around and saw him walking in their direction. He stopped in front of them. He was enormous and they appeared tiny before him. Yet he lowered himself to their level. Kneeling one foot to the ground, he greeted.

Alan: "Whoa! This is what it means to be immense."

Noah: "The guys must see this. Optimus Prime,²⁴ leader of the Autobots."

Optimus Prime: "Affirmative! I salute you, visitors. I am honoured to meet with citizens of Earth. Iron Man briefed me on your visit. You're welcome to L4. We'll do our utmost to send you back home to Earth."

Optimus Prime offered a hand and they touched his finger in greeting.

Alan: "We're so privileged to talk to you, sir. I am Alan and my friend is Noah. We're not in a hurry to get back home. Our coming here is grace and Nootra is the world we've always wanted to be."

²⁴ Optimus Prime of *The Transformers* is leader of the Autobots, a faction of transforming robots from Cybertron. *The Transformers* (1984) is an animated TV series by Sunbow Productions and Marvel Productions. Written and recorded in America, it was animated in Japan and South Korea. The series was based upon the line of transforming toys originally created by Takara, developed into the Transformers line by Hasbro. Ratchet, Mirage, Wheeljack, Cliffjumper, Jazz, Ironhide, Bluestreak, Skyfire, Gears, Bumblebee and Sunstreaker are Autobots in *The Transformers*.

Optimus Prime: "Thanks for liking our city. I thought I heard there were four of you. Where are Ryan and Zach?"

Noah (whispers to Alan): "He already knows our names."

Alan: "Zach and Ryan are training with Goten and Trunks, sir."

Optimus Prime: "Be my guests, Alan, Noah. I'd gladly introduce you to my fellow Autobots. And will you stop calling me sir? I'm not used to that. We're comrades here and there's no need for formality among friends."

Noah (whispers to Alan): "His humility is striking. He's just Optimus Prime."

Alan (whispers back): "You can't say he's a machine. His body is metal, but he has a heart of gold. Noah, this city of Nootra has taken my breath away."

Optimus Prime escorted his guests for a tour of the unit. He carried them in his hand and crossed the different quarters of the building. Every equipment, machine and gadget in this block was of extra-large size and great height. It was a real world of giants. Optimus Prime and his guests met Autobots on the way and these cheerfully greeted Alan and Noah. They finally arrived at a place where several companions were gathered. Optimus Prime put the children on top of some hardware and introduced them to his peers.

Optimus Prime: "Ratchet, meet our intruders Alan and Noah of Earth."

Ratchet: "Seriously; Central must be joking. They're mere kids. Why this whole lot of noise only because of children?"

Mirage: "So much agitation about nothing. I hope we won't have a clash with Captain Nootra because of this."

Wheeljack: "Maybe we should put them under interrogation, Prime. Let's extract the information and give Headquarters what they want."

Optimus Prime: "We won't do that, Wheeljack. We won't betray the trust our friends have in us. Goku is a trustworthy friend and I would gladly help his sons. If Gohan brought them here, we must guarantee their safety."

Cliffjumper: “Come on, Wheeljack; do these cuties have the faces of bad guys to you?”

Wheeljack: “Nope, but when Cap calls, I’ll leave the answering to you.”

Jazz: “Stop looking at them like that, Ironhide. You scare them with your multifunctional gun.”

Ironhide: “Earth-dwellers, huh? Why don’t they tremble at the sight of colossal robots; or you have people like us on your planet?”

Optimus Prime: “Iron Man reported that they knew his secret identity. Needless to say they know many of us. Earth’s intelligence is remarkable.”

Ironhide: “Kid, stand still while I work on my range. I must surpass Hawkeye the next time we go on a duel.”

Optimus Prime: “Don’t frighten them, Ironhide. I give you my word, children that you will be safe under my protection.”

Alan: “We’re not afraid, Optimus. We’re just too glad about everything.”

Bluestreak: “They’re not afraid of you, Ironhide. Looks like you’ve lost your grip on all, even on extra-Nootrans.”

Jazz: “Hey, when was the last time a kid ran away after you tried your tricks on them? I don’t remember; it was such a long time ago.”

Ratchet: “You’d better quit acting tough for you no longer intimidate anybody.”

Ironhide: “Thanks for disgracing me before strangers, guys. So you want the entire planet Earth to know I lost my reputation? Thank you very much for dragging me down.”

His fellows burst out laughing, but Noah had a concern about Nootra’s hierarchical structure and she asked the heroes.

Noah: “Optimus, you’re leader of the Autobots, aren’t you? But Gohan said Nootra doesn’t have a leader.”

Optimus Prime: “I am leader of the Autobots because there must be order in a fighting unit; otherwise we can’t raise a strong defence against the enemy. Each unit in L4

has a commander. Nootra Security Forces is a network of branches directed at Headquarters Central and the one in charge is J'onn J'onzz. Enlighten them more, Jazz."

Jazz: "Our city has no leader, but we're surrounded by neighbouring galaxies that have them, with fighting forces under command. Although we want to change the world through our civilization, we're not the only ones here and we can't be as naïve as to think everyone will adhere to our cause right away. We're heading towards something, which is not yet visible. To dissuade hostile planets from attacking us, there must be some direction in our security. Otherwise, every hero would be doing their own thing and that would be detrimental to our people."

After the two Earthlings had socialized with the Autobots, Skyfire, the most gigantic robot of the base, arrived. As Noah and Alan admired him, they heard the voice of their companions calling them. They looked around and saw no one. Ratchet pointed at Skyfire and as they looked at him again more closely, they saw Zach, Ryan, Goten and Trunks seated on his shoulders. Ryan shouted to them.

Ryan: "Watch this, Noah and tell me L4 only produces geniuses, as Iron Man said."

Zach and Ryan stood on either shoulders of Skyfire and made a free fall, diving towards the ground. Noah cried out on seeing the scary scene yet before the two crashed into the floor, they took off and flew on their own.

Alan: "That was a good save. You did it, guys; you're the best."

Noah: "You had planned it from the start, didn't you? This is the last time you scare me so. I guess it was your idea, Ryan."

Ryan: "You're still influenced by fear, Noah. You had to know we wouldn't do anything that would cause you pain. Trust us more."

Noah: "I trust you, but what you just did was too risky."

Ryan: "Sorry we scared you. I recognize it was daring of us, but it wasn't my idea."

Son Goten and Trunks flew and landed on Bumblebee's shoulder, a dear friend of theirs among the Autobots.

Goten: "Hello Bumblebee. We're here because of the incident you know. It's quite a long time since you visited. What's wrong, buddy?"

Bumblebee: "Nothing, Gotenks except this secret I'm telling you two because we're pals. Most Autobots have been confined in L4 for some time now. After the recent assault on NSF Headquarters East, we received intelligence that one of our dreaded enemies is planning an attack. But we don't know where or when they'll strike. That's why security has tightened. Batman guards the city gates both day and night. Iron Man and others defend strategic bases, and residential areas are domed. When we heard of intruders, we thought the enemy had begun to act. We're here to respond as soon as it happens. That's why you haven't seen me lately."

Trunks: "This explains all the turmoil around the Earthlings. We didn't know. Gee, we did give NSF some headache. But it doesn't bother me to have confronted Super-Nootra. I had long wished to do that."

Zach flew by himself and in this way, defied the law of gravity. With invisible wings, he crossed the many quarters of the unit and returned to rest on the right shoulder of Optimus Prime. The two exchanged a few words and after the newcomers had socialized with the rest of the Autobots, Cliffjumper suggested something.

Cliffjumper: "This is a great day; we've met inhabitants of planet Earth. This is advancement in exploration. Why don't we celebrate?"

Ratchet: "Great idea, Cliff. Let's celebrate Autobot style. A little break won't hurt anyone, Optimus. Let's have a race; one with riders only. If you have no rider, you're ineligible. So children, who wants to go for a ride?"

Cliffjumper: "I've picked my driver already; the little girl from planet Earth. Come with me, Noah."

Noah: "Huge, Cliff. I'm going to drive an Autobot even though I've never driven a car before. That's what I call skipping steps."

Ironhide: "The little Earthling who's not afraid of giant robots is my rider. Come now, Alan; we'll beat anyone who stands in our way."

Alan: "Yeah, Ironhide. We two as a team are going to make them sweat."

Optimus Prime: "I already have one here on my shoulder. Zach, can you drive a truck?"

Zach: "I'd rather have the truck drive me if the truck in question is you, Optimus Prime."

Bumblebee: "Goten and I have been partners since he was a kid and I was the same. Our team is unbeatable."

Goten: "You said it, partner. We'll win this one again just as in the past."

Jazz: "Come, Ryan before some walking hardware picks you up. With your faith and my speed, they have no chance."

Ryan: "My faith will move mountains and your speed will drive right through them."

Wheeljack: "Trunks is my rider, though Vegeta and I aren't the best friends in the world. Kid, say nothing about our teaming to your father, okay?"

Trunks: "I promise, Wheeljack. What are we waiting for? Transform and roll out."

Ratchet: "Wait a minute; there's no one left for me. I proposed this race and you mean I'm not taking part in it? That's cruel."

Ironhide: "You were not fast enough to pick a rider. He who set the rules fell into his own trap."

Wheeljack: "It serves you right, Ratchet."

Bluestreak: "I appoint myself this race referee. The twelve of you, step forward and each robot take his rider on the shoulder. No one crosses this line until I give the signal. You transform only when you hear me whistle. Non-participants, bet on your favourites and come out to encourage our competitors."

There was a racetrack running around the building. The contenders moved there and waited for the signal.

Autobots and heroes from other units came to watch the race. Everyone was excited for it was a long time they had had any. Bumblebee and Jazz had the highest bets. Unfortunately, before Bluestreak whistled the kick-off, the general alarm went off.

Optimus Prime: "What is it, Ratchet?"

Ratchet: "Green Lantern²⁵ of L4B1 says Insecticons and Stunticons have come in their numbers and force entry into the base."

Optimus Prime: "So that's what the Decepticons had been planning all along. Sorry, children; we'll have to postpone this race to another day. Gears, call the defenders to back up Iron Man at the gates. Sunstreaker, take a commando with you. The Decepticons mustn't breach."

Another alarm sounded and this one carried news far weightier than the first.

Optimus Prime: "What again? Mirage, report."

Mirage: "We have an emergency coming from NSF commander. He will speak with you."

Optimus Prime: "I'll take it from here. Optimus Prime to J'onnn J'onzz: come in."

J'onnn J'onzz (on screen): "Bad news, Prime. Megatron²⁶ has finally made his move. He's carrying out an invasion of Cybertron at this very moment. We just discovered his dome over the planet. It was carefully hidden so that not even a probe of level 5 could detect it. He managed to skew data over the last twenty hours, so he has been there for quite a while. He set up machines for extraction and has amassed considerable energy in hundreds of Energon cubes already. Prepare your men and sorry to say this, Prime but you'll have to move right away."

²⁵ Green Lantern is the shared primary alias of several superheroes in DC Comics. Green Lantern (Alan Scott) was created by Bill Finger and Martin Nodell and first appeared in *All-American Comics #16* (July 1940). The Insecticons and Stunticons are Decepticons in *The Transformers*. Decepticons are the antagonists in *The Transformers'* universes.

²⁶ Megatron is the primary antagonist and leader of Decepticons in *The Transformers*.

Optimus Prime: "We've been prepared for this; little did we know it would come on two fronts. L4 is currently under assault. Insecticons and Stunticons have attacked the base and are trying to breach."

J'onn J'onzz (on screen): "Leave the defence of the base to the commanders and their men. If they sent only the Stunticons and Insecticons, your commanders will know how to hold them off. Prime, I knew Megatron would riposte, but from what I'm seeing, he and the Decepticons must be experimenting something despicable. Cybertron harbours a wealth of energy and I imagine the worst if it falls into Megatron's hands. You understand only the Autobots are qualified for this mission?"

Optimus Prime: "We'll be in Cybertron in a few astro-minutes."

J'onn J'onzz (on screen): "Be prudent and call for reinforcement if you deem it necessary."

Optimus Prime: "Thanks, J'onn. End of transmission."

Wheeljack: "You spoke a little too fast about the Earthlings' safety, Prime."

Skyfire: "Decepticons have begun their game again and I think this one is serious. Doesn't Megatron ever tire?"

Ironhide: "What I know is that Decepticons are losers and this case won't be any different. We'll show them that we're the strongest and Megatron will stop attacking Cybertron permanently."

Ratchet: "Megatron should be arrested and confined in the Frightful Forest. That may calm him for some astro-years, and why not forever?"

Mirage: "I don't see the ruthless Megatron enlightened, but we can still try."

Optimus Prime: "Time is running out, comrades. Jazz, assemble the Autobots."

Jazz signalled the grand gathering and the Autobots came in their numbers and lined up in rows, next to each other. Zach, Ryan, Noah and Alan were delighted to see many of them at the same time. Those who were present were Bluestreak, Brawn, Bumblebee, Cliffjumper, Gears,

Hauler, Hound, Huffer, Ironhide, Jazz, Mirage, Prowl, Ratchet, Sideswipe, Trailbreaker, Wheeljack, Windcharger, and the three Dinobots.²⁷

Zach: “Awesome! What an imperial view!”

Alan: “Stop taking things lightly, Zach; they’re here preparing to go into battle.”

Zach: “How could you of all people say that? Al, it’s you who’s always ‘wow’ at anything of this kind.”

Alan: “But it’s about Megatron here and Skyfire said it was serious. As much as I want to see the Decepticons, I’m afraid the Autobots might find it hard to defeat them, like in the show. Decepticons used to appear stronger than Autobots and so far, everything is like in the cartoons.”

Ryan: “What got into you, Al? It’s no time to play the scared. The Autobots need your faith, not your fears.”

Ironhide heard the children and intruded.

Ironhide: “Alan pal, don’t fear. Decepticons only appear to be stronger, but they’re not since Autobots win in the end. So allow your friends to admire us and when you get back home, tell Earth how awesome we are.”

Alan: “Count on me, Ironhide. Zach, what was that again?”

Zach: “Yeah, Al. I want to hear it from you this time. It sounds better when you say it.”

Alan: “Majestic is what was on my mind. Seeing the Autobots like this is like regaling myself with the delicious desserts of Aven.”

Noah: “Alan? It’s nothing compared.”

Optimus Prime instructed the Autobots and his L4 colleagues in the presence of Green Lantern and the commanders of the various units of the base.

Optimus Prime: “Decepticons are doing something unprecedented. Attacking L4 and Cybertron at the same time is nothing amateurish; they planned it scrupulously. We also must respond with utmost diligence. These are

²⁷ From Bluestreak to the three Dinobots: all of these are Autobots in *The Transformers*.

your tasks, Autobots: Grimlock,²⁸ take the Dinobots and reinforce Sunstreaker and the teams that are at the gates with Iron Man; you are the vanguard. Do everything so that Stunticons and Insecticons don't breach. Gears, Hound, Huffer: go to Block 11 and be at the disposal of its commanders. Sideswipe and Prowl: defend the LZone in case Decepticons break in; the enemy mustn't lay their hands on the element. Trailbreaker, Windcharger, Hauler: assist the teams of the other divisions.

'Mirage, you take command of this unit while I'm away. Assign Autobots according to subsequent developments. The rest of the Autobots: follow me to Cybertron. We're saving our planet from the Decepticons. These children here are coming with us. They're our guests and must be protected at all cost. I delegate command of Secret Base L4 North to Green Lantern of L4 Block 1. Commanders, you follow his instructions. Green Lantern, I don't have time to assign the various units their tasks. Make sure to position them according to your expertise so we don't get any more surprises from the enemy. Robots, machines and men: everyone to work."

Green Lantern: "Copy that, Prime. Mirage, transfer the base's command line to L4B1. Any development from NSF and all units of combat should be reported to me instantly. I envisage other parts of the city would be attacked. We at L4 are NSF's trump card and must deploy special units for this eventuality. Commanders, come out with Plan J and report when your commandos are ready."

Jazz: "The space team is in position, Prime."

Optimus Prime: "Good luck, Green Lantern. Keep L4 and Nootra safe. I'm counting on you."

Green Lantern: "Good luck, Optimus Prime. Keep Cybertron and Nootra safe. I'm counting on you."

Optimus Prime: "Now Autobots: transform and roll out!"

Although the atmosphere was tense, the Earthlings couldn't hold back their joy as they witnessed the Autobots' transformation before their very eyes. It was

²⁸ Grimlock is leader of the Dinobots, a faction of the Autobots, in *The Transformers*.

total exhilaration to see this mechanical manoeuvre, which turned the giant human robots into different types and shapes of vehicles. They counted themselves lucky to be part of the joint operation of saving L4, Nootra, and Cybertron.

Noah: "This world; it's a paradise."

Zach: "Not a paradise; not when villains still lurk around."

Alan: "Yet what do we expect from a world of comics? How is a cartoon without a villain?"

Noah: "If Nootra can be this great, what more of heaven?"

Ryan: "Heaven is what you make of your world. Nootra without villains acting wickedly and Earth without evil is heaven."

Noah: "You know what, guys; heaven is here and now. Agape is in me and the Autobots are here. I'm filled with joy unspeakable 'cause I'm with my cartoon heroes and I'm going to see Megatron soon. I know something is going to happen in this battle that will change everything. This is history we're making. I ask for everything to turn out good and for villains to stop playing the bad guys."

Zach: "Now, who's ready to kick out evil from villains in Nootra and wipe out evil from Earth and dispense heaven everywhere?"

Autobots (in a chorus): "We, the Autobots, are."

One behind the other, the Autobots began to roll out towards Skyfire, who had transformed into a large shuttle to take them in. Brawn and Optimus Prime came to pick up the Earthlings and Saiyans.

Brawn: "Are you ready to go to space, kids?"

Alan: "All our lives, Brawn; even if this is not new. We've become used to it lately."

Noah: "Optimus, what about Iron Man? He was out there alone."

Optimus Prime: "Iron Man will be fine. He says he doesn't want to fight but trust me, kid; a little action will do him good. Besides, the defenders and the other Autobots are with him, but I don't think he'll need them."

Alan: “Hey, Noah; it’s Iron Man. Remember, he’s invincible. Now let’s go find Megatron and stop him.”

Noah, Zach, Ryan and Alan with Trunks and Son Goten rode in the Autobots and boarded Skyfire in the company of Brawn, Bluestreak, Ratchet, Bumblebee, Cliffjumper, Ironhide, Jazz and Wheeljack. With their leader Optimus Prime, this team launched for space. The rest of the Autobots and agents stayed behind to defend L4 from the Insecticons and Stunticons. Optimus Prime intended to leave the Earthlings and the two Saiyans as their protectors on an asteroid beyond Nootra’s atmospheric influence. He didn’t want his guests to be exposed to battle, as it was safer for them to be neither in Nootra nor Cybertron given the present situation. Unfortunately, on reaching the asteroid, Skyfire found it impossible to land.

Skyfire: “Prime, we have a problem.”

Optimus Prime: “What type of problem?”

Skyfire: “One with four heads. Come see for yourself.”

The whole crew trembled at the sight of Firelord, Stardust, Nova²⁹ and Terrax, heralds of the planet eater. These cosmic beings were setting up conduits to extract energy from the asteroid for their master to devour it and drain it of its nutrients.

Ryan: “This explains why Terrax didn’t finish his fight with Spider-Man in the forest.”

Ironhide: “Let’s not mess with these guys; we don’t even have time for that. Allow them to prepare their dinner in peace.”

Ratchet: “This asteroid isn’t inhabited anyway, and our primary concern is Cybertron.”

²⁹ Firelord, created by Gerry Conway and John Buscema, first appeared in *Thor* #225 (vol. 1, July 1974). Stardust was created by Michael Avon Oeming and Andrea Di Vito and first appeared in *Stormbreaker: The Saga of Beta Ray Bill* #1 (Mar. 2005). Nova, as Frankie Raye, was created by Roy Thomas and George Pérez and first appeared in *Fantastic Four* #164 (Nov. 1975). As Nova, he was created by John Byrne and first appeared in *Fantastic Four* #244 (July 1982). All of the above appear in Marvel Comics.

Optimus Prime: "Let's proceed to Agnam. We'll drop the children there before getting to Cybertron. Fly on, Skyfire."

The crew continued on their journey until Agnam, Cybertron's largest moon. Situated between planets Nootra and Cybertron, Agnam was the biggest spatial body between the two. Contrary to what was planned, the whole crew had to stop there. This was because the enemy had blocked the way and allowed them to go no further. The atmosphere was suddenly filled with the aura of an impending battle that would be decisive for Cybertron and Nootra.

Wheeljack: "Brawn, get the kids some wings. There's going to be some action in the air."

Zach: "Only for Alan and Noah. It'll be fine with Ryan and me."

Alan and Noah received anti-gravitational gadgets that enabled them to move on their own. These were fixed around their wrists and ankles. The four Earthlings also got minute chips to place in their nostrils so as to breathe in outer space. Then the passengers came out of Skyfire, who retransformed from a space shuttle to a human robot. The other Autobots took their usual human shapes as well. Optimus Prime turned to one of his peers and gave him an assignment.

Optimus Prime: "Cliffjumper, our guests are under your protection."

Cliffjumper: "Affirmative, Prime. I won't take my eyes off them; not even for a second."

Ryan: "Prime, Zach and I would like to watch the backs of the heroes. We learned a lot from our intense training at L4 with the Saiyans; not so, Trunks?"

Trunks: "Absolutely, Ryan."

Optimus Prime: "I do not permit you to endanger yourselves, but look after your two friends if you're eager to help. Cliffjumper will protect you four. Now everyone take position and charge at my command."

The Autobots stood their ground to face off their

nemeses of all-time the Decepticons. These were led by Megatron. He was accompanied by three of his peers, namely Starscream, Astrotrain and Soundwave.³⁰

³⁰ Starscream, Astrotrain and Soundwave are Decepticons in *The Transformers*.

10 BATTLE IN SPACE

Insecticons, a faction of Decepticon robots that turn into giant devastating insects, and Stunticons, five Decepticon robots merging into Menasor,³¹ an even more gigantic robot, attacked Nootra's northern secret base. The assault on L4 was carried out at the same time as Decepticons invasion of Cybertron. This combined attack of the Decepticons aimed at destabilizing Nootra's forces and rendering them ineffective in stopping the invasion of Cybertron. Cybertron was home planet to both Autobots and Decepticons and an integral part of Nootra.

When Nootra Security Forces learned of the invasion, J'onnn J'onzz, NSF commander, dispatched some Autobots to Cybertron. Brawn, Ratchet, Bluestreak, Bumblebee, Cliffjumper, Ironhide, Jazz and Wheeljack, under the command of Optimus Prime, left for Cybertron aboard Skyfire. They took along Zach, Ryan, Noah, Alan, Trunks and Goten. Once in space, on Moon Agnam, the Autobots were compelled to face off their all-time foes the Decepticons, who were led by Megatron. Starscream, Soundwave and Astrotrain were by his side. So the never-ending battle opposing Autobots to Decepticons was about to resume.

Megatron: "Isn't that my old enemy Prime? You're late as usual for in a few astro-hours, my invasion of Cybertron will be complete. You and your band will stay here until Decepticons take over Cybertron."

Optimus Prime: "Get this right, Megatron: Cybertron will never fall into your hands. The Autobots and NSF will vanquish you this time for good."

Megatron: "I see you never tire of losing each time we meet, Optimus. You stand with the weak and none of such ever wins. You'll lose this one as you lost the others."

Ironhide: "Always presumptuous, mega nuts? I can only see four losers here: you and your three sorry deceptive creeps."

Starscream: "Look who they brought with them; kids."

³¹ Menasor is the combined form of the Stunticons in *The Transformers*.

Astrotrain: “They may be out of their minds bringing children to fight us. I thought they used to say something like ‘protect the children first’.”

Starscream: “Looks like their civilization and its immoral values have started to collapse. We’ll lend a hand and foster their fall.”

Skyfire: “Shut up, Starscream. I can’t believe a scientist like you could sink this low.”

Starscream: “I can’t believe it myself, Skyfire. I’m the first to be impressed by my sinking. And it’s better than anything I imagined.”

Optimus Prime: “Megatron, that folly of yours has gone too far. Stand down now and we might reconsider your punishment. You’ll never get through the many of us.”

Megatron: “Don’t underestimate me, Prime. You think I came unprepared? You’re going to swallow back those words for it’s certain I’m winning this one. You brought kids with you, look who we’ve got on our side.”

Thanoseid,³² the merged form of Thanos and Darkseid, and Magneto,³³ master of magnetism, made their entry as Megatron’s allies. On seeing the astounded look on the faces of his opponents at the arrival of his backers, Megatron let out a loud guffaw. His three companions joined him and they howled with laughter.

Megatron: “If you could see your faces! You’re surprised, aren’t you? That’s normal since you couldn’t predict this scenario. Now Optimus, get out of my way before my men tear you apart!”

³² Thanoseid results from the fusion of DC’s Darkseid and Marvel’s Thanos in *Amalgam Comics* (1996), a publishing imprint shared by DC Comics and Marvel Comics in which the two merged their heroes into new ones. Darkseid first appears in *Superman’s Pal Jimmy Olsen #134* (Nov. 1970) and was created by Jack Kirby. Thanos first appears in *Iron Man #55* (Feb. 1973) and was created by Jim Starlin.

³³ Magneto (Magnus, Eric) is a super villain in Marvel Comics. He first appears in *X-Men #1* (Sept. 1963), and was created by Stan Lee and Jack Kirby. Galactus is a super villain in Marvel Comics. Created by Stan Lee and Jack Kirby, he debuted in *Fantastic Four #48* (Mar. 1966), the first of a three-issue story later known as ‘The Galactus Trilogy’.

Cliffjumper: “We’re not impressed, mega freak. You’re still outnumbered.”

Optimus Prime: “Megatron, I don’t know how you managed to win over Thanos, Darkseid and Magneto, but the Autobots are determined to stop you. Give up now.”

Megatron: “You haven’t seen anything yet, Optimus. And stop making useless imperatives when addressing me. You won’t use those words again once you know this special friend of mine.”

The Autobots were consternated on seeing rising from behind Megatron, Galactus, the cosmic being who was as big as no other in the galaxy. Galactus was a colossal living form of cosmic energy. Also known as planet devourer, he had the habit of consuming entire spheres by emptying them of their energy. Some armour shielded him and contained his energy.

Ratchet: “We must admit it, Prime; Megatron is good. How did he convince Galactus to join him?”

Megatron: “Look at their sorry heads, Astrotrain. It’s too much for them.”

Astrotrain: “The Autobots will automatically surrender after seeing this; unless they’re too foolish to want to fight Galactus.”

Starscream: “I think they’re too foolish and that’s what pleases me about them. I’m going to see Galactus crush them one by one and I’ll finally humiliate them by placing my foot on their necks.”

Meanwhile, the Autobots were confused because of the intervention of these four super villains. They were forced to review their strategy.

Optimus Prime: “This doesn’t look pretty, Autobots. We’re in a bad situation. J’onn saw this coming, but I took it lightly. We won’t pass through them if we don’t call for backup. Wheeljack, put me through to Central.”

Wheeljack: “You can go on, Optimus.”

Optimus Prime: “J’onn, do you read me? We need reinforcement right away. Megatron has our dreaded enemies with him. Send us some of your best cards.”

J'onn J'onzz (by receiver): "Negative. Everyone has been dispatched to the field. Decepticons sent their troops to a number of our bases. You sure have something in mind."

Optimus Prime: "Call Professor X of L1 South and tell him to teleport his team right away."

J'onn J'onzz (by receiver): "Hang on, Prime; you'll have them in a moment. J'onn out!"

Optimus Prime: "Friends, help is on the way. Let's do everything so that Cybertron doesn't fall into Megatron's hands once again."

In the enemy camp, there was a visible impatience to engage the battle. The super villains were waiting for Megatron's orders to start the hostilities.

Magneto: "These metallic men will be trapped in my magnetism. That will be a piece of cake for me."

Megatron: "They're no fools, Magnus. They've activated the anti-magnetic wave, which makes them invulnerable to magnetism. Try something else."

Thanosaid: "I'm not here to play. I want a third of Cybertron under my command. Its technologies will give me dominance over the multiverse. I'm going after the machines."

Megatron: "Take down any of them, but leave Optimus Prime to me. He and I have unfinished business."

Starscream: "Skyfire betrayed me and today, he'll pay for it."

Astrotrain: "What about Galactus? He's standing there doing nothing. Why did you hire him in the first place, Megatron?"

Megatron: "To impress the Autobots. And it's better to have Galactus on our side now than risk Cybertron being devoured by him once it falls to us. A true leader must use tact and not be as foolish as to minimize threats that may cause his downfall. This is something others don't have."

Starscream: "Was that remark directed at me? I told you, Megatron; you will fall one day and I'll be there to replace you. Then the whole world will see that Starscream is the true leader of the Decepticons."

Megatron: "In your dreams, Starscream."

Thanoseid: "Why don't you robots stop talking and start fighting?"

Soundwave: "Megatron, more heroes have joined the Autobots. There are five of them."

The reinforcement was teleported from L1 South Nootra and they appeared on Agnam. The squad comprised Cyclops, Jean Grey, Archangel, Storm and Wolverine of the X-Men.³⁴ They landed in space and some had anti-gravitationals fixed around their members. Upon their arrival, the mutants were completely overtaken by the situation.

Archangel: "Great! Anybody cared to tell us we had to face Galactus?"

Cyclops: "Prime, what do you have as strategy here?"

Optimus Prime: "We too have been taken totally unawares."

Jean Grey: "They'll attack us anytime. Let's find something fast."

Wolverine: "You bubs want to look for strategy, that's your business. I'm taking down Magnus on my own."

Cyclops: "Wait up, Wolverine; we're a team. Let's be orderly. Optimus, the X-Men know Magneto and have a chance against him. We're taking him. Skyfire, Ironhide, Brawn, Jazz, Wheeljack, you engage Galactus."

Optimus Prime: "Ratchet, Bluestreak, Bumblebee, your opponents are the Decepticons. I'll take charge of Megatron. Now, who'll face Thanoseid?"

Wolverine: "If you bubs are afraid of him, I'll handle him my own way; if anybody doesn't find an inconvenience with that."

Wolverine said this to Cyclops' face, directing it to him personally.

³⁴ Cyclops (Scott Summers), Jean Grey (Red), Storm (Ororo), Wolverine (Logan), and Archangel are the X-Men, a superhero team founded by Professor Charles Xavier in Marvel Comics. Created by Stan Lee and Jack Kirby, they first appear in *The X-Men #1* (Sept.1963).

Storm: “We’ll fight him together, Logan. What about the children?”

Optimus Prime: “Trunks, Goten, you’re the reserve; watch carefully. If any man or robot is in danger, come in to the rescue. Cliffjumper, I charge you to not let the enemy approach the Earthlings.”

Cliffjumper: “Understood, Prime. They’ll be safe under my watchful eyes.”

Cyclops: “Well heroes, you know your tasks. Good luck, everyone.”

Optimus Prime: “This is operation ‘Liberty Cybertron 11’. Nootra, attack the invaders!”

Once the commandos were set, NSF agents went in full force against the villains who had come together under the direction of Megatron, the Decepticon. But Galactus remained still. Suspended in space, it appeared he didn’t want to fight. The Autobots who were charged to engage him let him be and went after the Decepticons. Yet one fighter remained unnoticed to the crowd. He watched the scene from within a wire of Galactus’ armour and when the fighting began, moved out. He put a knee on his board as he floated on Galactus’ right hand.

It was Silver Surfer,³⁵ the man Galactus turned into an energy being. Silver Surfer was disturbed at the sight. His human emotions emerged as he mused on Nootra’s action. The heroes were being thoughtless by fighting Megatron and his powerful allies. Yet they still believed in their victory. Silver Surfer couldn’t pretend he didn’t know deep down in his heart that Megatron and his friends were wrong. But his master, Galactus, was on their side and he dared not to go against him. At least, not until Galactus had fulfilled his promise of taking him back to his beloved.

Alan was watchful enough to notice the unseen fighter. The Earthling knew he was there since he was Galactus’ herald. Silver Surfer was one of Alan’s favourites and he

³⁵ The Silver Surfer (Norrin Radd) is a Marvel Comics superhero created by Jack Kirby. He first appears in *Fantastic Four* #48 (Mar. 1966), in ‘The Galactus Trilogy’. Shalla-Bal appears in Marvel Comics. She first appears in *Silver Surfer* #1 (Aug. 1968) and was created by Stan Lee and John Buscema.

wanted to meet him. He sought his champion and found him. As Alan observed Silver Surfer, he perceived his indecision and asked Cliffjumper to let him go to him.

Cliffjumper: "I can't let you go, kid. Optimus asked me to watch you."

Alan: "I know Silver Surfer and I'm certain he'll listen to me. We need all strategies to win this battle. Only Silver Surfer can help us out against Galactus. He'll be a valuable ally and more, a good friend. Trust me, Cliff."

Zach: "I hope you know what you're doing, Al."

Ryan: "He knows, Zach; he's perceived it in his spirit. Silver Surfer is a hero, not a villain, so he's one of us. Cliff, there's no danger. You can let him go."

The Earthlings persuaded Cliffjumper and he allowed Alan to execute his plan. Alan flew towards Silver Surfer and as he approached, Silver Surfer, without making any brusque movement, turned his head in his direction. When Silver Surfer looked at him, Alan spoke.

Alan: "Silver Surfer, you must help the Autobots and their friends. Galactus is using you for his greedy purpose, but you don't have to serve him. You can choose to fight for the good cause right now, Surfer."

Silver Surfer: "Who are you? Why are you telling me these things? Do you know me?"

Alan: "What I know is that Norrin Radd is a good man who sacrificed himself to save his world. He was forced to serve Galactus so that his native planet might not be devoured. I know he may be afraid something bad might happen to his people if he disobeyed Galactus. But I also know that if it depended only on fear, nothing would be accomplished in the world. Acts of justice and love need no compensation - they are recompense in themselves. I know you, Silver Surfer, and I know you don't fight for the cause of evil."

Silver Surfer: "You're right, but I'm confused about everything. I used to justify myself for serving Galactus though I knew his ways were wrong. I lied to myself all these years. I longed so much for Shalla-Bal that I did whatever Galactus asked me to do without consulting my

conscience. Shalla-Bal wouldn't like the man I've become. I have lost all honour."

Alan: "It's never too late to make a new beginning, Norrin. Man's story isn't only about his fall, but much more about his rising. You too can do it, Surfer because you're a man."

Bowing his head in a few moments of reflection, Silver Surfer raised it again with another expression; one devoid of fear and full of determination to serve the people of his world. A fire lit in the white eyes of Norrin Radd, as he made the noblest decision of his cosmic life.

Silver Surfer: "I've made up my mind come what may. Right now, I choose not to serve this glutton anymore."

Silver Surfer stood his ground and used the Power Cosmic against Galactus. He formed a lightning bolt from his energy and shot it at him. Galactus budged and turned his head to see what happened.

Galactus: "This indeed is beyond reasoning! My Silver Surfer attacks me, his master, with my Power Cosmic?"

Silver Surfer: "I was a fool to have worked for you all these years. You go about devouring worlds and use me as herald. You've caused harm to countless planets and made me accursed in the universe. Today, I free myself from your rule. I know I can't be redeemed yet this act will be a plea for forgiveness from all the peoples I wronged."

Galactus: "Traitor! You're doomed. You cannot prevail against the mighty Galactus, your maker."

Alan: "He may be mighty but we have the Almighty on our side, and He alone is our maker. Do it, silver head."

Standing upright on his board, Silver Surfer confronted his former master frontally. Meanwhile, the X-Men were already engaging Magneto.

Wolverine: "Always with the bad guys, Magnus? What won't you do for the cause of evil? And Xavier says you've changed."

Magneto: "Always irrational, Wolverine and never using your head? You're slow to understand what business is all about."

Cyclops: “Business? And you said you were fighting the mutants’ cause.”

Magneto: “Cybertron has a recording of the complete history of this dimension. My bargain with Megatron will make me access mutants’ history and developments of all times. I will find all unidentified mutants dispersed across the galaxy. Cyclops, don’t you want to know your origins? Ask yourselves this question, apprentices of Xavier: why would they hide our history from us if not because they did some bad thing to our ancestors?”

Storm: “There has been injustice towards people throughout history. It’s deplorable yet we can’t do anything to change the past. In Nootra, we have the possibility of preventing such things from happening to people again. As for me, Magneto, I do know my origins as a mutant: it is in Nootra. Nothing about my origins can qualify me apart from what I am in Nootra.”

Archangel: “Besides, where will that knowledge take us if not to more hatred and strife?”

Magneto: “Because you think there can be justice without truth, angel?”

Jean Grey: “But the truth you can’t deny, Magneto, is that Nootra is hiding nothing from us. Yet if you’re so keen on knowing the contents of the archives of Cybertron, why not tell Xavier? He won’t refuse you something as dear to your heart as that knowledge.”

Archangel: “Yes, the professor would have done that for you, but you chose to ally yourself with Megatron, whose aspirations are always evil.”

Wolverine: “Stop trying to reason with him. He must have something fouler on his mind besides what he says. I’ve learnt to trust nothing coming from him. So why not stop this diplomacy and go for the hard way?”

Thanosaid: “Somebody is finally talking. Who shall I smash first?”

That was when the iconic superhero entered the Battle of Agnam, and he answered Thanosaid accordingly.

Superman: “You mean, who shall smash you first?”

Storm: “Superman? What are you doing here? J’onn said you had to protect the city with Cap now that Decepticons have deployed their troops everywhere.”

Jean Grey: “You came purposely for Thanoseid, didn’t you?”

Superman: “Don’t worry, X-Men; I’ll be done with these two in no time and get back to Nootra to assist Cap. Leave Thanoseid to me and concentrate on Magneto.”

Wolverine: “I won’t mind taking him down myself, but if you say so.”

Cyclops: “Be careful, man; Thanoseid is no angel.”

Superman: “Me neither.”

Archangel: “But I am. What have you guys got with angels?”

Superman faced off Thanoseid while Cyclops, Storm, Wolverine, Jean Grey and Archangel fought Magneto. To review their invasion plan, the Decepticons entered a force field before the Autobots attacked them. This hid them temporarily from their adversaries.

Megatron: “We won’t succeed if NSF agents keep on coming. Now it’s Superman; next Captain Nootra will be here, and if they fuse, they’ll dispose of Galactus for sure. It would be better we retreat to Cybertron and keep them away with the dome before our whole plan falls through.”

Starscream: “Retreat? I wonder how you became leader of the Decepticons with your lack of insight, your zero strategy, and especially your shameful defeatist attitude.”

Megatron: “Wonder well, Starscream yet it’s I, leader of the Decepticons, and not you. Listen, comrades; we’re not here to prove anything to the Autobots. It’s obvious we’re stronger than them. We must lay aside pride and see that we attain our objective.”

Soundwave: “Megatron is right. We must fight with caution. They’ve called for backup. Rumble, Ravage and Laserbeak³⁶ can’t stand up to them.”

³⁶ Rumble, Ravage and Laserbeak work in tandem with Soundwave in *The Transformers*.

Starscream: "Caution is not an option, Soundwave. There's no strategy here. Now you tell me how Rumble can be useful in a space war."

Megatron: "Enough of you, Starscream. I can't afford losing what I've worked so hard on these past few years. Remember how long it took us to put this plan together. Nootra is relentless and if we play, they'll defeat us as they always do. I have vowed that Cybertron will be mine this time. That's why I didn't act alone, but allied with those ruthless villains whom I'm going to deceive once I achieve my goal. And when I speak of me, I speak of the Decepticons. We must retreat and find a way to hit Optimus Prime and the Autobots hard and leave them down. Astrotrain, activate Retreat Mode 2."

The Decepticons tried to call back their allies, but these were fully engaged in the hostilities. It was then that some heroes began to fall. It didn't take long for Galactus to crush Silver Surfer and send him several light years away. Still, Galactus' anger wasn't quenched and he went for the Saiyans.

Galactus: "Dare you tamper with my insatiable hunger and the energy Cybertron will give me? See where the madness of my Silver Surfer took him? Your fate will be no different from his."

Galactus was too swift for his size. He grabbed Trunks and flung him towards Bumblebee who was coming to his rescue. Trunks fell on the Autobot and both went crashing into the surface of Agnam. Galactus turned and caught Son Goten before he got away. He pressed him hard and Son Goten screamed out in pain. Optimus Prime, Ironhide and Bluestreak hurried to the spot and attacked Galactus so as to free Son Goten. Optimus opened fire from his handgun, but it didn't breach the armour. Ironhide and Bluestreak fired from all angles but Galactus' helmet remained intact. Although the Autobots strove hard, they couldn't get Goten out of Galactus' grip. And Galactus continued to squeeze the young Saiyan, and Goten screamed out louder and louder.

As Son Goten howled in pain, his cry resonated millions of miles away. It travelled to distant horizons and reached

an uninhabited planet to awaken someone who had been in a coma for three years. The influence of that sound over him was so strong it revived him. That cry meant something deep to him. It was associated with his rage, his very motive for living. He opened his eyes and looked at the sky. Memories rolled pass his mind. The old grudges came to the surface and pervaded his soul. He opened his mouth and repeated the one word he held responsible for all his troubles:

“Kakarot, Kakarot, Kakarot.”³⁷

As he got up, his power returned in full force, and being replenished, he followed the coordinates. Travelling at the speed of light on invisible wings, he moved in the direction of the cry. He traversed stars and planets instantaneously and arrived at the battle space.

³⁷ Kakarot is the Saiyan name of Son Goku in *Dragon Ball*.

11 THE LEGENDARY SUPER SAIYAN

Megatron and the Decepticons were invading Cybertron. To do this successfully, they sent Insecticons, giant robotic bugs, and Stunticons, specialists in vehicular stunts, against L4, one of Nootra's secret bases. The Autobots and agents occupying the base defended it and also took measures regarding the city's security. To frustrate the Decepticons' plans, some Autobots under the leadership of Optimus Prime flew to Cybertron. They took along Noah, Ryan, Alan, Zach and the Saiyans Trunks and Goten. The crew was forced to make an abrupt stop on Cybertron's moon Agnam, as Megatron and his comrades blocked the way. These were with the strongest super villains of the galaxy, namely Magneto, Thanos and Galactus, the planet eater.

After hearing news that Decepticons had launched several attacks in different parts of the city, the space team was fortified by the super mutants Wolverine, Cyclops, Storm, Jean Grey and Archangel of the X-Men. Superman also strengthened their ranks to settle issues with Thanos. Furious because of the sudden rebellion of his herald the Silver Surfer, Galactus laid his hands on the Saiyans. After defeating Trunks, he went on to crushing Goten. As Goten screamed out in pain, his cry went to distant horizons and penetrated the heart of a fallen villain.

The battle opposing Decepticons to Nootra Security Forces continued on Agnam, near Cybertron. But the heroes and their foes were not prepared for what was coming. The course of the battle changed with the arrival of the most dreaded super villain of their world. Son Goten's cry provoked his frozen heart and reanimated him. He followed the signal and it didn't take long for him to reach the battle site.

That was the unforeseen fighter who had appeared on Agnam. The sight of him immobilized all. Friends and foes stopped fighting and many trembled on realizing that it was actually him and his matchless strength. But he was glad to be in the place where he excelled the most- a

battlefield. He gazed at the many fighters around with a wide smile on his face, revealing his thirst for battle. He began to stretch his body, preparing to enter into action.

Alan: “No way; it can’t be. This is impossible. Don’t tell me he too is here.”

Zach: “Now who can defeat Broly, the Legendary Super Saiyan?”³⁸

Ryan: “Why are you so alarmed? You forget Son Goku had always beaten him.”

Trunks had recovered from his setback and he joined his companions, and shed more light on the situation.

Trunks: “I guess it’s Goten’s cry, which brought him here. He still holds that grudge against Son Goku. It’s what keeps him coming back no matter how many times he’s defeated.”

Noah: “This is insane. How can someone live his whole life for revenge?”

Bumblebee: “Son Goku is his motivation for living. Take away Goku and Broly is suppressed. Destiny can be cruel sometimes; one was accepted, the other wasn’t. So he tries to avenge himself on the one who was luckier than him. If you want to get rid of Broly, get rid of Goku first.”

Ryan: “There’s no room for any more sacrifice in the world, Bumblebee. Agape did the last one and nobody has to sacrifice himself again to save the world.”

Bumblebee: “I wasn’t serious, Ryan. Besides, it’s not Goku who brought him here but Goten, and I’m not giving up my Goten for anything.”

Zach: “If we all join forces, we might have a chance against him. But we must save Goten from Galactus’ clutches.”

Bumblebee: “I don’t think the devourer will harm him any further. He too is overtaken by the situation. Crushing Goten isn’t as personal to him as it is to Broly.”

Trunks: “Broly must be weakened by the blow he received three years ago. It was something like a cosmic bomb we

³⁸ Broly is a Saiyan who makes his debut in *Dragon Ball Z: Broly - The Legendary Super Saiyan* (1993), 8th *Dragon Ball Z* feature movie.

unleashed on him and I still can't imagine how he survived it."

Bumblebee: "Watch out, children; there's going to be an explosion of energy at any moment."

Noah: "Where's Son Goku? We need him now."

Galactus freed Son Goten when he saw Broly, and Ratchet took the little Saiyan and treated him. Galactus turned to the Decepticons to clarify things given the recent development.

Galactus: "Megatron, I will take leave for the moment. I won't afford losing any more energy fighting these pathetic insects, especially when the great hunger is upon me. The clash with my Silver Surfer consumed much of my energy. Broly shall crush the Nootrans and once he finishes the job, I'll devour all the planets of this galaxy as I please."

Megatron: "You mustn't leave unless I say so, Galactus. By entering into alliance with me, you agreed to follow my orders until I conquer Cybertron and gain access to the Living Laboratory. Its technology will create the ultimate Decepticon robot that will eliminate all forces in the galaxy and give me limitless power to rule the cosmos."

Galactus: "Don't overstep your limits, Megatron. It's not because I allied with you you're going to boss me around. I am Galactus and I fear no one. I can crush you as well as your entire band on the spot."

Megatron: "I wouldn't venture into this game of threats if I were you, Galactus. I assure you, you have no idea what I'm capable of, especially when it concerns your hunger. But we're allies; no need to get that far. Don't forget you have a benefit in this as well. Cybertron will supply the technology you need to reach the Hidden Dimension, the paradise of energy. If you turn back, you'll miss those delights awaiting you there."

Galactus: "I'm not withdrawing from our alliance, Megatron. I only reasoned that it was obvious Broly would destroy the Nootrans. And once he does that, I'll come to take my share of the loot. He'll facilitate the task for us. If you'll excuse me, dinner awaits me, prepared by my loyal

heralds; not like that traitor of Silver Surfer whom I trusted and loved above all."

Megatron: "You may go, Galactus. After all, it's thanks to you Broly is here and will be giving us a hand. I who thought you didn't want to fight yet it's your action, which was the most profitable. See that you're here once the ear chip tinkles."

Galactus withdrew, leaving Megatron with his fellow Decepticons and allies. Then the leader of the Decepticons rejoiced.

Megatron: "Yes....! Starscream, this is my lucky day. Broly will do everything for us. What an amazing twist of fortune!"

Starscream: "It serves them right. NSF will regret standing in our way."

Thanosaid: "Let Broly crush them all. We'll have a better world when all of Nootra's forces are destroyed. I too will take leave the time Broly deals with them."

Superman: "Where do you think you're going, Darkseid? You and I haven't finished yet."

Thanosaid: "You take things too personally, Kal-El. Don't you care Broly is going to annihilate your people? Or is it only me you care about?"

Superman: "You two are criminals of the worst kind. Thanos, you're insane and you, Darkseid are just a maniac. You think I'll let you access Cybertron? You'll be sorry for yourselves once I finish with you."

Thanosaid: "Your insults are out of proportion. Maybe you don't know whom you're dealing with. I'm neither Thanos nor Darkseid. I'll show you that Thanosaid is invulnerable."

Superman: "Let's hear you say that again after this."

Superman and Thanosaid continued from where they stopped. Superman stretched out a hand and punched Thanosaid in the stomach. This mighty blow pushed the villain far away from the battlefield. Thanosaid quickly regained control and he and Superman engaged in single combat some distance from the rest. When Superman and Thanosaid were fighting, the other heroes remained still,

not knowing what action to take against Broly. As for Broly, he keenly observed them, as if sorting which one to fight first. Optimus Prime was confused by this development since nothing predicted Broly's interference in the battle. He took the initiative to negotiate with the Decepticons and approaching Megatron, tried to persuade him to join them fight Broly, the common foe.

Optimus Prime: "Megatron, it'll serve no one if Broly destroys Cybertron. Stop your operation and join us to fight him together."

Megatron: "For your information, Optimus, Broly will destroy only you and your friends. When he disposes of Nootra, I'll rule supreme over the galaxy."

Optimus Prime: "Don't you remember how we almost lost the city the last time he attacked us? When it comes to cases like this, everyone has to set aside personal ambitions. You know very well that nobody can control Broly. He won't stop until he has wiped everybody out, including you."

Megatron: "That's your version of the story, and it has nothing to do with what will transpire. By the way, thanks for bringing your little Saiyan along. He only served in the advancement of my plan. I told you, Optimus, you're a Decepticon at heart."

Optimus Prime: "Stop taking things lightly, Megatron. This isn't a game; it's Broly. Why do you behave as if you didn't know the magnitude of threat he poses? I make my offer once again: join forces with Autobots and let's stop him together."

Megatron: "I'm disappointed you don't know me as well as I thought, Prime. Megatron never allies with Autobots. Decepticons: retreat!"

Following Megatron's orders, the Decepticons Astrotrain, Soundwave, Starscream, Rumble, Ravage and Laserbeak withdrew and moved a little farther from the main battle site. They activated a dome, which made them invisible and they watched from there to see what would happen with Broly's arrival. Magneto also retreated and Nootra alone was left on the battlefield. Autobots, X-Men

and Saiyans stood their ground, determined to stop Broly and eliminate the threat his presence posed to their world.

When Broly reached Agnam, his look betrayed a sense of excitement for the fighting he was about to wage. He laughed out loud for a good while before starting to power up. He transformed into the first level of Saiyan power transformation. When Broly put on Super Saiyan, his long black hair and eyebrows turned gold. His black eyes took on a greenish colour and an energy force field enveloped him. Broly resumed a calm posture after this first demonstration of power and fixed his eyes on the sky. Observing that he wore a faraway expression, Trunks asked Cyclops and Optimus Prime to let him attack. These trusted the ability of his sword yet accepted only after Trunks promised to take no risks. Trunks pulled out Tapion's sword and rushed towards Broly to strike him with all his might. Broly wasn't hurt; neither did he turn around to see who hit him.

Trunks continued to strike him although Tapion's sword dealt Broly no scratch. It was as if the energy field enveloping Broly made his body invulnerable to attacks. Seeing that his tactic wasn't working, Trunks put his sword back into its sheath behind his back and transformed into Super Saiyan. He formed energy waves in his hands and threw them at Broly, who still remained unmoved. It seemed many things were on his mind.

Then Broly caught sight of Son Goten on Ratchet's shoulder. On seeing Goku's son, Broly's excitement resurfaced and the passivity he had shown towards the attacks of Trunks ceased. He instantly increased in strength and the spilled energy was felt until the next galaxy. This was the initiation of another power transformation. His golden hair got a supplementary green tint yet his pupils disappeared and his eyes became all white. His height increased with the increment of his muscles and he was bigger, taller and appeared stronger than ever. At the end of this metamorphosis was the manifestation of the Legendary Super Saiyan.

Wolverine rushed and pulled Trunks out of Broly's energy shield, which had taken on a golden colour and was

destructive in nature. Broly continued to discharge more energy so that that part of space quaked with his defying laughter. This echoed in the hearts of X-Men and Autobots and they feared for the forthcoming. Knowing the danger that was Broly and having witnessed the damage he caused before, they understood they were there in a perilous state. They had to stop him at all cost lest he produced a cataclysm.

Cyclops: “Prime, if you want my expertise, you have it: Broly can only be eliminated by another Saiyan.”

Wolverine: “What are you talking about, Summers? Goten and Trunks are kids; they’re no match for him. Even these giant robots are useless; a lot of height and metal for nothing. And this is the last time I see you two send a kid to fight a monster.”

Trunks: “It’s not their fault, Wolverine. I pressed them to let me go. I thought since Broly seemed off his guard, I could have him with the sword of my friend Tapion, my lucky charm. They trusted me and had me covered all through.”

Jean Grey: “Logan, Scott is right about the Saiyan, but he didn’t mean the kids, as you certainly know. Superman can’t fight Broly and Cap can’t join us now that the city is under attack. Our only hope is the chosen Saiyan.”

Archangel: “And he’s the very one Broly is looking for.”

Ratchet: “You’d better give him what he wants, Prime.”

Ironhide: “Son Goku must return.”

Optimus Prime: “That’s the same thing I was thinking. Namek is billions of light-years away. Galaxy 5 can’t be reached through our devices, except after several hours. And we don’t have that much time. How are we going to make him aware of the situation?”

Bluestreak: “There must be a way to get him here as fast as possible.”

Storm: “Maybe Gohan can. He has a craft made by Bulma³⁹ of Capsule Corporation. It has just been invented

³⁹ Bulma appears in *DBZ*. Capsule Corporation is a structure in *DBZ*.

and can be used to teleport people to billions of light-years in a short time.”

Ironhide: “Now if the kid has that tech, it’s good news for us. But who’ll pass on the information? Saiyans don’t use communicators, and we need everyone here to raise a joint attack against Broly now that he’s seriously waking up.”

Archangel: “I know who we can send to look for Gohan while we try to contain Broly: these two brave Earthlings.”

Cyclops: “Zachary, Ryan, are you ready to go on your first NSF mission?”

Zach: “We’re at your disposal, sir.”

Optimus Prime: “Go to Nootra, find Gohan and report the situation. I wonder why he hasn’t joined us yet. Saiyans don’t use comm. because they sense danger; that’s why I can’t understand why he isn’t here already. But, find him and tell him to fetch Goku and his companions right away.”

Ryan: “You can count on us, Optimus Prime.”

Storm: “If it’s difficult to find him on your own, get help from the city. Don’t fear; NSF now knows you’re working with us.”

Jean Grey: “Children, I know you have potential. You’ll succeed.”

Zach: “Hey Al, watch over Noah, okay?”

Cliffjumper: “Don’t worry about your friends, pal. Prime charged me with their protection and I won’t fail him.”

Ryan: “Thanks Cliff. Agape protects us all.”

Skyfire: “You said it, kid. Now hurry to Gohan.”

Noah: “Be careful, guys and come back well.”

Alan: “Trust them, Noah; they’ll succeed.”

Jazz: “I’ll teleport you to Mid Nootra and you can start the job once you’re there. Take this sack. You’ll find everything you need for the mission.”

Ironhide: “What are you waiting for? It’s time to leave.”

Wolverine: “Kids, go get the Saiyan while we buy you some time with these claws. Ironhide, we’re going to calm that big boy.”

Wolverine displayed Adamantium⁴⁰ claws and his fellow X-Men, Autobots and Trunks joined him, and they attacked Broly together. Fighting in space continued after Ryan and Zach had been teleported to Nootra. Finding Son Gohan wasn't an easy task. The two Earthlings didn't know where to start since Nootra was a whole planet. So they followed Storm's advice and went to seek help. Going over Nootra Intergalactic Stadium, they found it full of spectators. An important match was taking place. Zach and Ryan flew there, hoping to find friends to help in the mission.

The football final of the Nootra Tournament opposing Nootra's Wings to the Gauntlet of Nootra was holding at that moment. A few minutes before half time, the Wings and Gauntlet were tied, each with a goal in their accounts. After making an important save for his team, Voltz, goalkeeper of Nootra's Wings, made a long clearance until the other half of the field. A midfielder of the Gauntlet trapped the ball on his chest. He passed it to another teammate and they ran together towards the Wings' defence. Bruno, a defender of the Wings, tackled the striker and took the ball. He launched the counterattack by passing the ball to Papan.

When the ball was in Papan's possession, instead of counterattacking, he juggled with the ball, tapping it with his feet, then knees and head and that several times. He continued by going in between two opponents, tricking them by subtly handling the ball. He bounced the ball repeatedly in the middle of other adversaries while maintaining full control. Papan was holding a show on his spectacular football abilities and the spectators were pleased and they cheered him. But his teammates were annoyed and asked for the ball. He finally listened to them and passed the ball to Lucas.

Lucas and Ach continued the counterattack together. They exchanged passes as they went forward, which tactic destabilized the adversary. When the ball was with Ach, three opponents came against him and Ach, with hands in

⁴⁰ Adamantium is a hard metal in Marvel Comics. It was created by Roy Thomas, Barry Windsor-Smith and Stan Lee and first featured in *Avengers* #66 (July 1969).

his pockets, dribbled them and came out of their midst without losing the ball. He passed the ball to Lucas and this time, Lucas ran fast forward, leaving Ach behind. When two midfielders from the opposing team tried to tackle him, Lucas jumped high with the ball on his feet as if it was stuck to them. He made acrobatic moves as he dribbled past the Gauntlet midfielders. Yann and Cesare shouldered him on both sides and when he saw an opening, he passed the ball to Cesare.

Knowing Cesare's potential, three defenders of the Gauntlet blocked him on the side and he found no opening to shoot the ball to the goal. He tried to breach but there was no way to pass. On noticing that Benjamin had gone ahead of him and was waiting for his pass, Cesare made a long lob to Benjamin and the ball stopped at the foot of Nootra's Wings' captain and clung to it. Benjamin tempered the game to assess the situation. He observed that the Gauntlet surrounded him, having raised a wall in front of their goal. Most of the Gauntlet players were in the last twenty metres of their goal so Benjamin used his famous technique of eagle's wings and sent the ball to Roberto who was far away in the midfield. Roberto got the ball and signalled Eric to run ahead and Eric took position on the right side of the area.

Yann was on the right corner. He perceived what Roberto and Eric wanted to do and having freed himself from all markers, he was in the ideal position for that combination to succeed. He gestured to Roberto and this one shot the ball to him. Yann volleyed the ball, deflecting its trajectory sky high in Eric's direction. Eric out-jumped two defenders, and with a header, sent the ball into the nets. The Gauntlet's goalkeeper thought he had the ball, but as he held out a hand to catch it, the ball multiplied and he couldn't tell which one was real. So he was deceived by Eric's notorious technique and conceded a goal. It was Nootra's Wings' second goal after the one of Cesare, and this gave them a lead in the final.

The referee whistled a few minutes later and both teams entered the changing room, and then moved to the training pitch to prepare for the second half. It was still half-time when Ryan and Zach landed on the training pitch

and met Benjamin and his teammates. They told them about the situation on Agnam and asked for their help in finding Son Gohan.

Benjamin: "You mean Broly is back? He would have exterminated everyone three years ago if Son Goku hadn't stopped him. This is an emergency, Nootra's Wings. We must help them find Gohan or this match is going to be our last."

Roberto: "You can't be serious! We can't quit the match after all the hard work we've been through."

Voltz: "We're leading, Ben and we're playing well; we'll definitely win the final. Let them go find other people to help them. Extra-Nootrans, in case you didn't notice, we're busy here and can't assist you. Excuse us now."

Voltz spoke in a commanding tone to make it clear to the Earthlings they had to leave. But not all of his peers agreed with him.

Ach: "It's Broly we're talking about. We can't pretend like it's nothing. If he's still mad at Goku as always, we must be prepared for the worst."

Papan: "Did somebody say quit the match? You guys are nuts. Spectators will never forgive us for doing such a thing. And my trophy, the cheers and ovation - all will go up in smoke. I don't want that to happen. Nooo."

Benjamin: "Don't make it a public show, Papan; imagine Cesare hears you. As for the match, there's going to be a rematch when the organizers learn what was at stake."

Eric: "Listen teammates; as citizens of Nootra, our priority should be its wellbeing, not only in entertaining fellow citizens, but also in protecting them, like the agents. It's just a matter of time before NSF announces the bad news to all. But time is running out for our heroes up there. A minute lost here is a heck of a problem to them."

Although the players spoke in a low tone so as not to attract the attention of two of their teammates, the ones they were trying to avoid had some long ears and knew what their comrades were preparing.

Cesare: "This can't be done. So that's what you had been planning all along, Eric. Get me right: no one leaves this place until the match is over. Nobody will rob me once again of my victory."

Benjamin: "The galaxy is in danger and your only concern is the match?"

Cesare: "Exactly. Nothing is more important to me than winning this match. Understood?"

Eric: "Cesare, the orders are from Optimus Prime and Cyclops."

Cesare: "I take orders from no one, and less from that lot of metal men and mutants. They even violate the values of their so-called civilization. I thought living in this city meant free from being put under orders."

Benjamin: "I'm captain of this team and I say we go look for Gohan. We, players of Nootra's Wings, are not only footballers, but we represent this city as well. We're a symbol of this civilization when we visit other planets to play football. Nootra's Wings isn't only about winning a match, it's about upholding this civilization, which is nothing but the people of this city. We are of Nootra and we protect our people with our Wings. That's why as captain, I say we all go find Son Gohan and do our part in saving our city. If you belong to this team, Cesare, you do the same."

Cesare: "Blah, blah, blah. I've heard speeches of that sort, full of choicest vocabulary yet all trash in the end. That grand talk doesn't move me a whit. They're just words used to manipulate those who lack faith in themselves. I never fall for that kind of trick. And I haven't finished yet with this band of impostors from Earth."

Ach: "You're overstepping the limits, Cesare. You can't go against the expressed will of your captain. It's out of proportion what you've done and I won't allow you to disrespect Benjamin any further."

Cesare: "I wasn't speaking to you, Ach but if you're looking for me, you'll find me. Don't you see this is a set-up? How come intruders are now dealing with the vehicles? I warn you all: anyone who stands between me

and this trophy will pay for it. As for you, Benjamin, try leaving this pitch, then you'll know the hardness of my fist."

Cesare's attitude infuriated Zach so much he raised his voice, and spoke harshly to the haughty footballer.

Zach: "Look at the arrogant punk. It's time someone got that out of you."

Cesare turned away from Benjamin and faced Zach directly.

Cesare: "Well, the little kid has grown up. Perhaps we should finish with the impostor first before we get to Benjamin."

Zach: "Whatever. Let's see if your punch is as hard as your words."

Ryan: "Knock it off, guys; that can wait. Zach, control yourself; we have more important to do. Listen Cesare; if Son Goku doesn't step in on time, there'll be no more matches to play."

Cesare: "Don't care, impostor. None gets in my way and goes unharmed."

Bruno: "If you guys are going in for a fight, count me in."

Voltz: "Cesare is relentless; there's no reasoning with him. I'm not interfering this time. I'll only watch and see how this turns out."

Papan: "What wastage! Instead of playing, winning and being praised by the public, we're here fighting each other. When you guys are done with the warfare, send me a note 'cause I'm out of here."

Roberto: "You're going nowhere, Papan. Didn't you hear the captain? We're finding Gohan together. Walk away and I'll call you a coward."

Papan: "Do as you please, Roberto; you're not the one who defines me. I am who I am irrespective of your opinion. Bye-bye squadies."

Lucas: "I know one who'll cry when Captain Nootra honours us and the public cheers us for saving the city from Broly."

Papan: "You mean they'll recognize me as one who fought bravely for my city? You should have said that earlier. Benjamin, let's go find the big green guy's protégé."

That wasn't counting Cesare who was about fighting Zach. He was determined to stop his teammates from leaving the pitch. When Zach and Cesare had almost come to blows, Yann rushed in and stopped them before any one hurt the other.

Yann: "You won't hit anybody here, Cesare."

Cesare: "Get out of my way. Don't you see these aliens want to steal our victory?"

Yann: "Ben, take Nootra's Wings with you and execute the mission. I'll take care of him."

Cesare: "Watch your words, Yann. Take care of whom?"

Yann: "Of you, of course. Is there any odder person in this place?"

Cesare: "You have no idea what you're doing. This is my match and I'm not losing it. I warn you for the last time or you'll regret it badly."

Yann: "You used to boast of your chakra alerting you of impending danger. I guess you were only spinning yarns. Open your eyes for a while and look at the sky; Broly has returned."

Cesare: "Don't try to denigrate me, Yann. I know very well that Broly is on Agnam. I also know Megatron and his deceptive creeps are there, as well as Thanoseid, Magneto and the cosmic horror. But that's the least of my concern. What I know for sure is that I'm winning this final."

Yann: "Then you'll have to win it alone. And since you know everything, you're certainly aware the moment you set foot on the main pitch without your teammates, the adverse team will win by default and there'll be no rematch. It'll be your fault if we don't lift up the trophy. Then you'd bid farewell to your dreams of playing in the Galaxy Brave team until next year or maybe never. What's worse; when people learn you were partly responsible for the destruction of the world, I don't know what will

become of you. Benjamin, you're the Wings' captain; do what you have to do. Take your team and find Gohan."

Benjamin and his teammates of Nootra's Wings split into five groups of twos. Ryan and Zach equipped them with anti-gravity gadgets, which the Autobots gave them as tools to fulfil their mission. They all took off and went for the search, leaving Yann and Cesare behind.

12 NOOTRA SECURITY FORCES - NSF

Broly, the Legendary Super Saiyan, appeared on the battlefield of Agnam where Nootra Security Forces' agents, headed by the Autobot Optimus Prime, were fighting to prevent Decepticons invasion of Cybertron. His presence on Agnam favoured Megatron and his allies, namely Galactus, Magneto and Thanoseid. These withdrew knowing that Broly would dispose of Nootra's forces and they would return to reap the fruits of his disastrous work. Following this turn of events, Cyclops and Optimus Prime sent Zach and Ryan to Nootra to look for Son Gohan, who was in possession of a prototype teleporter, which could travel billions of light-years in an instant. It was the only means to reach planet Namek and bring back Son Goku, who alone had a chance to defeat Broly.

Zach and Ryan got help from Benjamin and his teammates of Nootra's Wings. These were having a decisive football encounter with the Gauntlet of Nootra and were leading by two goals to one. Ryan and Zach met them during half-time and told them about the situation on Agnam. Despite Cesare's opposition, Nootra's Wings joined the Earthlings and the whole team embarked on the quest for Gohan. When they were gone, Cesare thought it wise to deal with Yann who prevented him from stopping his teammates from undertaking that mission.

Cesare stared at Yann in complete outrage. He couldn't believe what just happened. His teammates were gone and there was no longer any possibility to win the match. He walked steadily towards Yann and collared him with a fist ready to punch.

Cesare: "Why did you do that? We trained all year for this and you give up everything for some impostors who are trying to set us up?"

Yann: "Hands off, Cesare or you're going to regret it."

Cesare: "I doubt it. You have no idea what you've done, but you'll know soon enough."

Yann: "You think you can beat me? How many tries have you got in your account, and how many times have you failed?"

Cesare didn't answer, but he maintained his grip on Yann, and raised his fist to punch him. Yann held back the blow with a hand. This state of tension lasted a few seconds before Cesare released his grip and let him go.

Yann: "The best thing you can do is join me find the Saiyan."

Yann took off and flew away. He was one of those football players who could fly on their own. Cesare remained on the pitch alone. He wrung his hands and cried out his rage, feeling helpless because of his incapacity to change the unwanted reality. He spent a few seconds in reflection after which a gleam lit his face. He took off at once and flying at maximum speed, caught up with Yann in the air.

Yann: "Surprise, surprise! I thought you cared about nothing except the match."

Cesare: "You band of weaklings will amount to nought without my help. I can sense Gohan's aura on Seth Island."

Yann: "Now that you say it, I too can sense it. How did you locate him there?"

Cesare: "If the Saiyan isn't aware of the situation when he's in Nootra, it's very likely he's in the place where no energy escapes either from within or without. When I directed my chakra towards the East, I sensed he was in Seth recently."

Yann smiled and lined up with Cesare and they both headed east.

Yann: "Aha Cesare. Don't play tough when you have a soft heart."

Cesare: "Enough of your comment."

Yann: "Why do you have to make a whole scene of everything? You knew Broly was on Agnam yet you still wanted to continue with the match? How unfeeling!"

Cesare: "There are millions of superheroes in Nootra. They'll beat Broly as they have always beaten the villains."

But this match would have proved to everyone that I was better than Eric. I would have won my place in the Galaxy Brave team and participated in the Intergalactic Tournament. Now the hard work I endured would be for nothing; all because of some impostors from planet Earth. I bet they don't play football there."

Yann: "What those Earthlings are doing isn't bad. They're not from here yet they're helping us. I don't understand why you're still mad at them."

Cesare: "I would have settled matters with the one called Zach. If he thinks he can equal me in combat, I pity him. As for you, Yann, don't think I'll forgive you. You humiliated me before everybody. We're no longer friends from now on."

Yann: "Point of correction, Cesare; we've never been friends."

Cesare: "I'm faster than you; even faster than Trunks and Goten who call themselves Saiyans. Who said Saiyans were the strongest in the universe?"

Yann: "Faster than who? Don't put me in that bunch of apprentices. See instead if you can catch up with me."

Yann speeded up and Cesare followed with the same velocity, and they raced while travelling to East Nootra. On Seth Island, Gohan, Yamcha, Puar⁴¹ and Krilin were picnicking on the beach. They were playing in the water when Cesare and Yann found them.

Cesare: "Aren't those the people you were looking for? Think you lost the final for these clowns. Just watch them making fools of themselves."

Yann kept his outward calm though he was incensed on seeing Gohan and his companions partying. These also noticed the two footballers and feared for their fiesta.

Yamcha: "Oh, oh; trouble may come from the sky. It's not the rain but I feel these guys want to ruin our fun."

Gohan: "The final was today, I suppose. If these two are here at this hour, then something must be wrong."

⁴¹ Yamcha and Puar (Puar is a shape shifting animal) appear in *DBZ*.

Krilin: "Hope they haven't come for revenge. Remember, they wanted to fight the Earthlings when Trunks stopped them."

Yamcha: "Those two don't give anything a rest as far as I know."

Cesare and Yann didn't approach the Saiyan or his friends. Neither of them took the responsibility to go down and talk to them.

Cesare: "I'm not talking to those suckers for anything. Go tell the Saiyan yourself, Yann. After all, it was your idea that we find him."

Yann didn't land to tell the heroes anything. He only sent a signal by creating a small explosion from a gadget, thus alerting their position to the other search groups. Then the two footballers left. Gohan took note of their gesture and deduced something.

Gohan: "If those two can miss a match just to find us, there has to be trouble. Krilin, Yamcha, hurry; let's dress up quickly and be ready."

The other search groups saw the explosion and followed the signal. Zach and Ryan landed on the island after a few minutes. Having arrived there the first, they contacted the rest and announced the fulfilment of the mission. Ryan explained the situation on Agnam to Son Gohan and his companions.

Gohan: "Broly has returned? It's true the only one who can defeat him is my father."

Zach: "Why didn't you sense his presence? He emitted a lot of energy, which could be felt until the next galaxy."

Krilin: "Seth Island isolates people from the outside world. Nothing penetrates this atmosphere. It's some sort of refuge from the tumults and stresses of life. People come here to find peace and rest."

Yamcha: "You forgot to mention one thing, Krilin; that it's the best place for a picnic."

Ryan: "If that's the case, then how did Cesare and Yann find you? Those two are resourceful, we must admit."

Gohan: "We're lucky the teleporter is here with me. Let's get it working."

The six flew out of Seth's atmosphere and landed on the surrounding sea. Standing on water with his companions and the Earthlings, Son Gohan opened his sack and removed a small capsule. He threw it some distance away and it exploded and became a small spaceship.

Gohan: "Friends, I'm honoured to present to you Teleport Unlimited, Bulma's masterpiece and latest invention of Capsule Corporation. This one you're seeing is the prototype. Yamcha and Puar will use it to travel to Namek in Galaxy 5. Yamcha, it'll take you to destination in less than an hour. When you get there, tell Son Goku and his companions that we're on Code Red and Optimus Prime orders them back. I can sense Decepticons all across Nootra. Krilin, get to NSF HQ; they'll need all agents available. I'll go assist the fighters on Agnam. Friends, you know what to do. Be brave and keep Nootra safe."

Yamcha and Puar boarded Teleport Unlimited and left for Namek. Son Gohan, Zach and Ryan headed for space while Krilin took the direction of NSF Headquarters East.

Gohan: "Zach, Ryan, follow me to Secret Base L5; it's in the sky of Mid Nootra. We'll be teleported to Agnam from there."

Zach: "Why did the Autobots travel on Skyfire when they could have been directly teleported to Cybertron?"

Gohan: "Autobots prefer travelling as a group and all of them can't fit in one teleporting machine. Besides, Skyfire is fast enough and rivals teleporters. It's in the case of an emergency that teleporters are used. Yet in this case as you explained, Cybertron is under enemy occupation and NSF must have lost the right of entry. Generally in Nootra, everyone prefers travelling on their own or on shuttles rather than being teleported. A journey is an exciting thing to be savoured like a good meal, although my father is one who never takes time to savour his meals. What I mean is teleporters spoil the fun of the journey."

Before attaining L5 in Nootra's last atmospheric layer, Son Gohan and his new companions heard an explosion in the city.

Ryan: "Oh, no! It's coming from the stadium and Denver was there when we left. We have to rush to his rescue."

Gohan: "Sorry, friends but you'll have to do it on your own. My brother is in danger and he needs me."

Zach: "We understand, Gohan. Go ahead and get to the rest. We'll catch up with you later."

Gohan: "Be careful; you'll find tough guys there."

Ryan: "We know, but it's our duty to help our friends. See you later."

Zach: "Gohan, buy Son Goku some time. I know he's going to get rid of Broly."

The two Earthlings parted from Gohan and this one flew to L5 while Ryan and Zach went to rescue Denver and company. A few minutes after Benjamin and his teammates left the Intergalactic Stadium, some Decepticons landed on the pitch and took the place of the footballers as main actors on the scene. They began to wreak havoc everywhere. News reached Nootra Security Forces and agents like Hawkeye, who were present for the match, started evacuating the stadium. He left his daughter in the care of a friend, who took her to safety out of the stadium. Clint Barton then went on full duty as Hawkeye, agent of Nootra.

More NSF agents arrived at the stadium to stop the Decepticons from pursuing their disgusting act. Some joined Hawkeye in evacuating the people while others confronted the enemy. Their adversaries were Devastator, a Decepticon who manifested when the five Constructicons combined; Thundercracker and Skywarp, who like Starscream, turned into jet fighters, and Blitzwing, a Decepticon changing to a tank and a jet.

As much as this group was imposing, they were challenged by another made of heroes who were the pride of Nootra. These landed in the stadium and took their ground to confront the giant robots. Among them were The Flash, fastest man in the city; the Asgardian Thor, who

wielded a thunder-commanding hammer; Batman, smartest and most cunning of the agents; and Captain Nootra, emblematic figure of Civilization Nootra - the man endowed with all spectacular abilities due to his zeal for his city. It was he who inherited the legendary weapon of his ancestors, the Nootra Shield and he had a cape, which enabled him to materialize air and all kinds of winds. Superman, the Man of Steel, came from the sky and took his place at their side. But the presence of this last one raised some doubts.

Flash: "Gee, you're back already? But the threat is ten times higher up there."

Thor: "You're needed more on Agnam than here, Superman. The enemy isn't neutralized yet and given that it's Broly, that isn't happening so soon."

Superman: "Don't worry, agents; I defeated Thanoseid and the fusion ceased. Darkseid and Thanos were wounded and left. The Decepticons and their allies also withdrew and I found no one to fight. I trust the X-Men, Saiyans and Autobots to contain Broly before Goku comes in. My primary mission now is to protect citizens here in Nootra."

Captain Nootra: "I hope that confidence proves you right. You're our strongest fighter yet you forsake our men and leave them to fight Broly on their own?"

Superman: "You all know my powers are ineffective when it comes to Broly. I never came across a single person on whom my powers have no effect until I met him. Don't you remember when I fought him three years ago? There seems to be some Kryptonite on his body, which converts my most powerful punch into a mild pat on him. That's the strangest thing that ever happened to me. I feel useless when he's around, so I left the fighting to our comrades while I make myself useful here."

Batman: "They should have known that as agents, but these big kids pay no attention to whatever they see or hear. It's good you're here. You'll merge with Cap and Super-Nootra shall take down Devastator."

Captain Nootra: "It's become frequent lately. Not that I don't like it, but I'd like to use my powers this time."

Besides, Superman and I seem not to be in harmony these days."

Superman: "Yeah; the last time Super-Nootra came out, the two kids trounced him with their football."

Thor: "Cap, our gaming will be unfair if you continue to fuse with Superman. It doesn't count if you win as Super-Nootra for we can't tell whether it's you or Superman who did it. Whereas my points will keep on adding as I win a fight; and so I'll take the lead. Today, I'm going to squash more than one Decepticon and get ahead of you."

Captain Nootra: "No, Thor. The gaming is suspended when I'm in fusion. Can't you see it's Batman who wants me to put on Super-Nootra?"

Batman: "There's no room for doubts, remorse or play talk from any of you. These machines call for a show-off. Hurry up, men. Cap, Superman, bring forth Super-Nootra."

Captain Nootra: "Wait a minute; you're not J'onn to give me orders. You may be an elder but I'm Captain Nootra and you won't speak to me like that."

Batman: "Stop being childish and grow up, Captain. Keep the complex for after the battle."

Flash: "When are you two going to come through your endless grudges? I can't believe you do this each time, even when we're in the middle of a crisis. I can behave better than you sometimes."

Captain Nootra: "It's Batman. He takes me for an inferior and treats me like a child. I can't stand his air of superiority."

Batman: "Air of superiority? I'm only trying to do my job here. Others should be doing the same."

Thor: "Allow me to smite him while you talk complexes. I haven't tested Mjolnir on big Constructicon yet. Devastator, get ready to receive the strike of the mighty Thor, son of Odin."

Devastator smirked unpleasantly when this reached his ears.

Devastator: “You fool. When the Constructicons merge into Devastator, they’re unstoppable. Your hammer can’t do anything to me. I’ll shatter it into pieces instead.”

Thor: “Not my Mjolnir. Here’s a foretaste of what this beauty can do.”

Thor lifted up his hammer and turned it several times in the air. He aimed for Devastator and shot the hammer at him. Mjolnir struck the giant robot on the forehead and pushed him to the ground.

Thor: “No one can resist the power of Mjolnir. And I warned him, but he wouldn’t listen.”

Before Thor finished his comment, Devastator was back on his feet. Noticing that Mjolnir had fallen just beside him, the Decepticon reached out to grab it, but none could wield Mjolnir except its master. Yet for some unknown reason, the hammer didn’t respond to Thor when he called it. Devastator had trampled it underfoot and neutralized Thor’s power over it. Thor moved closer and tried to trick the robot into letting Mjolnir go but when he was near, Devastator caught him and threw him down. Then he smashed him under his other foot. On seeing what happened to the thunderer, the agents heroed up.

Captain Nootra: “Hang on, Thor; Super-Nootra will get you out of there. Kal-El, let’s fuse and save Thor.”

Batman: “Flash, find a way to distract Devastator the time Cap and Superman merge to get Thor out of his grip.”

The Flash rushed to Devastator and did everything to draw his attention. Having it, he moved in circles and Devastator followed his movements. Flash ran very fast and as Devastator trailed him with his eyes, he became dizzy and wavered, being unable to keep his feet firmly on the ground. His hold on Thor weakened and the Asgardian freed himself and recovered his hammer. Then Omega Supreme entered the stadium. Omega Supreme was the most colossal Autobot in Nootra. He held an old grudge against the Constructicons and was bent on taking his revenge.

Omega Supreme: "Devastator is mine. It's an unsettled matter for thousands of astro-years. Move back, little ones and I'll deal with these treacherous Constructicons."

Thor: "At your command, supreme. Let the giants take out each other while I find Skywarp."

Skywarp: "Are you looking for me, Thor? Aren't you satisfied with the treatment Devastator inflicted on you? You want more? Have this then."

Skywarp fired a missile at Thor but the wonderful Super-Nootra was now revealed. He intercepted the missile and quenched it with a smoky substance from his cape.

Super-Nootra: "I'm your man, Skywarp. My rays will blow you up fast enough and I'll do the same to your brother."

Skywarp: "I know your weakness, Super-Nootra; you're bad in altitudes. But what you don't know is that altitudes are my domain. You can fly but you can't outdo me in the blue. Try to catch me and see if you can yet remember that my name is Skywarp."

Skywarp transformed into a jet fighter. He enabled his speed, set it to the maximum and went high in the sky. Super-Nootra was annoyed about the comments he made and his pride allowed no one to limit his abilities. He took off right away and followed him sky high. Skywarp weaved over the sky in order to leave Super-Nootra behind, but this one was always on his heels. Super-Nootra finally had Skywarp in his line of fire. He put a pair of fingers on either side of his head and released sharp green rays from his eyes, which blasted Skywarp and sent him crashing into the ground.

After disposing of Skywarp, Super-Nootra went for Blitzwing who was fighting NSF agents in the stadium's yard. At the sight of the approaching hero, Blitzwing opened fire when Super-Nootra was still in the air. The hero dodged them all and landed in front of the Decepticon.

Super-Nootra: "Agents, retreat and cover citizens; he's a done deal for me. Blitzwing, you'll regret attacking my city. I've come for you and ready or not, you're going down."

Blitzwing: “I see you still have that attitude when you wear Super-Nootra. The mixture of Captain Nootra’s complexes and Superman’s pride gives a badly bred kid. Behave sometimes, Nootra; that’s no example to children.”

Super-Nootra: “It’s to protect them I’m going to crush you and thwart whatever ignoble thing Decepticons are planning.”

Blitzwing: “I’m a triple changer, the strongest Decepticon; second only to Megatron. I’ll demonstrate my full potentials and when I defeat Super-Nootra, Decepticons will acknowledge my power and make me their leader. Super-Nootra, be privileged to fight the future boss of the Decepticons.”

Super-Nootra: “Always devising tricks to overthrow your master? I’m no fan of his, but having fought Megatron before, I assure you you’re far from holding a candle to him.”

Blitzwing: “Nonsense! You’ll go through your darkest hour for that impertinent remark, super-loser.”

Super-Nootra: “You have no idea what my powers are, Decepticon. I’ll set aside a bulk of them while fighting you to prove you’re nothing compared to me.”

Blitzwing: “That proud attitude again. You should join our band, Nootra for when I hear you talk, it’s like I’m hearing a villain. To make you also have an idea of my powers, I’ll transform into a tank only. That will be enough to stop you.”

Super-Nootra: “Stop making promises you can’t keep, Decepticon.”

Blitzwing transformed into a tank and from his cannon, opened fire on Super-Nootra. This one blew air from his mouth, which solidified into ice, and became a defensive fortress. He barricaded himself inside and the projectiles didn’t reach him.

Super-Nootra (to himself): “Superman, I’ll neutralize the cannon and shut down his firing abilities with my shield.”

Super-Nootra (to himself): “I leave him to you for now, Cap.”

Super-Nootra revealed the legendary weapon of Captain Nootra, the Nootra Shield. Targeting Blitzwing, he hurled it with a hand of steel. The shield hit Blitzwing's cannon and returned to Super-Nootra like a boomerang. At the contact of the shield with the Decepticon, the weapon released an explosive metal log, which plugged the opening of Blitzwing's cannon and subsequently smashed up his firing gear.

Enraged because deprived of offensive means, Blitzwing speeded up and confronted Super-Nootra in full force. Super-Nootra let his cape roll down behind his back and when it expanded to its full measure, it created a tempest, which pushed back the Decepticon tank, forcing him to retrace his steps. The triple changer couldn't bear the humiliation so he transformed into a jet and going over Super-Nootra, took on his human robotic form, and fell on his adversary. Then the two clashed it out man to robot. Meanwhile in the stadium, Thor was unhappy because Super-Nootra stole his opponent.

Thor: "This isn't fair, Super-Cap. Who shall I smash now?"

In the heat of the action, Batman had a talk with Thundercracker where he tried to persuade him to stop the Decepticon attack on the city.

Batman: "You Decepticons have no sense or what? It's silly to fight each other when a greater menace is up there on Agnam. We set aside our differences in such a case and come together to oust our common enemy. If we don't, we both are going to lose everything."

Thundercracker: "You think you can convince a Decepticon, Batman? We take orders from no one, except Megatron. Until he says so, we're not standing down."

Thor made Thundercracker his objective and he interfered.

Thor: "You'd better learn to reason out things yourself. I've got you in my line of fire and you'll tell me news about the power of Mjolnir after this."

Thundercracker: "You can't hit me with your hammer, Thor. I'm a jet fighter and when I take off, your hammer with a stupid name won't be able to follow."

Yet when Thundercracker wanted to transform, he realized he couldn't make a move. Batman wasn't in fact trying to persuade him into anything. He had sneakily passed a Vibranium rope around the robot, which immobilized him on the spot.

Batman: "You don't convince a Decepticon, you deceive him. He's all yours, Thor."

Thor: "You may be Thundercracker but I'm Thor, master of thunder. Yet you won't have the privilege of hearing thunder 'cause my Mjolnir shall crack you down."

Thor wound his hammer many times in the air, and shot it with great force at Thundercracker. Mjolnir hit the Decepticon hard and his Energon reserve broke, and he went off. Then the weapon returned to its wielder.

Thor: "Now I'm satisfied. There's no band of villains in the city my Mjolnir hasn't taken out. Thundercracker will pass the news to his comrades and they'll tremble before my mighty hammer. Mjolnir, I'm proud of you. Thanks for the teaming, bats."

Batman: "Nice job, Thor. Omega is taking care of Devastator, Super-Nootra must be through with Skywarp, Thundercracker is out. Who's left? Blitzwing. Where's that one?"

Flash: "Nootra, we have a problem."

At these words from Flash, Batman turned around and saw Shockwave entering the stadium. Shockwave was a colossal Decepticon who could transform into a laser cannon and a gun. He decided to transform into a giant gun right there and opened fire on everyone indiscriminately. There was panic everywhere and the security agents did everything to protect the people. Luckily, Captain Nootra's unconscious protection was over the city and as long as he was there, the people were out of harm. But the agents needed their champion to defeat Shockwave.

Batman (via comm.): "Batman to Super-Nootra: come in. What are you doing toying with Skywarp? Get rid of him now and come back here."

Super-Nootra (via comm.): "Negative. I'm engaging Blitzwing. You'll have to deal with Shockwave on your own. Nootra out."

Shockwave: "Super-Cap can do nothing to me. I'm indestructible."

It was then that four giant turtles appeared in the stadium and gave the Decepticon a befitting answer.

Michelangelo: "I'd try to keep that big mouth shut sometimes if I were you, Shockwave."

Donatello: "Mikey, I don't think he has a big mouth. You'd better look before you speak."

Michelangelo: "Donnie, this is one of my intros; don't care whether the machine has a mouth or not. Suppose he doesn't have a mouth, how then does he speak?"

Raphael: "You make me sick with all this talk, Mikey. Somebody wants to kick some butts or what?"

Shockwave resumed his human robotic form. The audacity of those standing before him as his adversaries surprised him.

Shockwave: "Little green frogs? What do you think you can do to me?"

Donatello: "Give you a shock, what else?"

Leonardo: "Point of correction; we're no frogs: we're the Ninja Turtles."

Batman: "Leonardo, you and your brothers are no match for him."

Raphael: "I think the bat meant he's no match for us. Don't underrate the powers of ninja, manbat."

Leonardo: "Batman, allow Super-Nootra to play with warpsky and wingblitz. We'll look after this giant computer."

Donatello: "And computers, I just know a lot about them."

Raphael: "Donnie, what are you going to do to fix this giant PC? It's not one of your many toys, you know. This one is big and scary."

Donatello: "I might throw a virus or release a big bug. What do you prefer?"

Leonardo: "I'd rather shut him down permanently."

Michelangelo: "Do they still make computers like this nowadays? Shockwave, you're outdated and fit for the trash."

Raphael: "I'll enjoy cutting through this machine with my fine twin sais. I got them sharpened yesterday in case, and I was right; this is just the occasion. Lovelies, we'll be having a party right away."

Hawkeye: "Don't start the party without me, Raph. I can't believe you wanted to keep me out of the show."

Leonardo: "Hawkeye, target the central processing unit and empty him of his energy reserve as Thor did to Thundercracker."

The insatiable Asgardian was still at the rendezvous for this other task too.

Thor: "Turtles, I'll give a hand from the sky. If you hear thunder, don't fear; it's only the power of the mighty Thor, son of Odin."

Hawkeye: "Stop bragging about yourself, thunder man; just let it rain."

Michelangelo: "Now bros, is it ninja time or is it ninja time?"

Flash: "They'll need my speed to give that wave a shock. Bats, what are you waiting for? Is it ninja time or is it ninja time?"

Batman: "I'm no ninja and I prefer Batman style. Now comrades, let's do this together."

The Ninja Turtles, Batman, The Flash, Hawkeye and Thor engaged Shockwave in a fight. The Turtles climbed on different parts of his body and hit him with their various weapons. Batman pulled himself up to the level of his shoulder and placed bombs all over that area, which he caused to explode at the opportune moment. The Flash remained on the ground and passed a Vibranium rope a million times around the Decepticon's ankles, fastening his

legs. Hawkeye stood at a distance and shot arrows at any opening he saw on Shockwave's body.

Thor, the son of thunder, went high in the sky and invoked thunder with his hammer. He diverted the lightning to Shockwave and when it struck him, Shockwave lost half of his powers and the attacks the others inflicted on him had their effects. He went down and couldn't stand up again for his legs were tied. That was how Nootra Security Forces' agents overcame the Decepticons in the stadium. On seeing his peers defeated, Blitzwing threw in the towel and fled.

13 RESCUE

Nootra and Cybertron were under Decepticon attack. This organized campaign against Nootra was conducted on several fronts. Before assaulting L4, Decepticons had already begun invading Cybertron. Once Nootra Security Forces got this intelligence, they deployed Autobots and X-Men in space to stop Megatron and his allies. Unfortunately, the Legendary Super Saiyan Broly awoke and appeared on Agnam battlefield and became the main threat to Nootra's fighters. Optimus Prime and Cyclops subsequently sent Zach and Ryan to find Son Gohan. Thanks to Benjamin and his Nootra's Wings' teammates, the Earthlings found him on Seth, an island that isolated people from the influence of the outside world. Son Gohan sent Yamcha and Puar aboard Teleport Unlimited, fastest teleporter of the galaxy. These two travelled to Namek to get Son Goku from there.

Decepticons later deployed troops in strategic locations in the city. One of the targeted zones was Nootra Intergalactic Stadium. NSF agents countered and defeated them, including the gigantic Devastator and Shockwave, some of the Decepticons' best cards. When Nootra's agents were dealing with the enemy in the stadium, Zach and Ryan got there to rescue Denver and friends. The two Earthlings reached the stadium when intense fighting was going on. They went searching for Denver and his peers. These had taken refuge in some sheltered place. Zach and Ryan flew over the Nootrans and Wally noticed them and showed them to the rest.

Wally: "Hey guys, look! Are not those the Earthlings up there in the sky?"

Mario: "Can't be. Probably some new NSF recruits."

Jeremy: "It's them, and it seems they're looking for us. Come on; let's give them a sign."

Jeremy came out to the open, shouting and waving to the Earthlings. His peers joined him, and they shouted until Ryan and Zach noticed them.

Zach: "They're here."

The boys landed in their midst and Denver carried them in his arms and kissed them.

Zach: "Save this for later, Denver. Let's get you out of the stadium right away."

Shades: "How did you learn how to fly in no time?"

Ryan: "Shades, all things are possible for those who believe."

Ryan and Zach carried the four Nootrans to a safe place, some distance from the stadium. But Denver was too big to carry. They went to Omega Supreme for help. The Autobot had just disassembled Devastator into the individual members of the Constructicons and the five Decepticons fled before he shut them down. Omega Supreme came to transport Denver to the place where his peers were. After the Autobot had left, Mario and Shades wondered again at the Earthlings' ability to fly.

Mario: "It can't be that simple. Let's say you have some special energy because I tried several times but couldn't do it, though I had faith."

Shades: "Next visit to L4, count me in. Then I'll fly Denver to Aegels."

Wally: "If you're ready to make all the sacrifices that go with it."

Shades: "Can't be so hard; even the Earthlings did it. What more of a born Nootran?"

Jeremy: "Shades, there're only three things in L4 and it's what you hate."

Shades: "What's that?"

Wally: "Training, training and training."

Shades: "Shish. That place must be horrible."

Jeremy: "But Ryan, you said faith could do it better than training."

Wally: "Sometimes, I don't understand what faith is all about. We talk about it as if we knew what it is whereas it's an abstract concept hard to grasp. What's faith in reality?"

Ryan: "It's challenging to give a definition, Wally. Let's say faith is the invisible possession of what you want before it

becomes visible. It's like you having the thing yet being unable to see it. Faith is a guarantee because once you have assurance of being or possessing something, you'll see the manifestation. Not so, Zach?"

Zach: "What I can say is that faith is something, which stands for another. It's a token, a pledge, a promise you're certain of, though you don't see the real thing. Like Ryan said, it stands as a thing in its visible absence and proves its existence though it isn't seen. Once the desired thing appears, there's no longer need having faith in it for faith disappears with the materialization of the substance. Faith operates in two realms; the invisible and visible. Since all things are in the invisible, it requires faith to bring them from there to the visible."

Ryan: "It's not because something is invisible that it doesn't exist. Sight isn't the only mode of perception of truth. Even our sensory organs are subjective and we sometimes perceive reality according to the reflection of certain elements on others. We can't see the wind yet we know it exists because we feel it. Just as the eyes sees the visible, faith sees the invisible. Hearing too is another form of perception. When you hear truth, you use faith to see the invisible and obtain the asset, having received the revelation contained in what has been proclaimed to you."

Mario: "Here's my riddle: I hate training and I have faith to fly yet I still can't fly. What's your answer to this, believers?"

Ryan: "Mario, faith on its own has no power to do anything. Having faith in faith is useless. It's faith in the object you believe in that changes everything. You don't believe in faith; your faith is in someone you trust has the power to fulfil your wishes."

Zach: "We believe in Agape who is almighty. Agape being the Almighty, He has the power to do beyond what man can imagine. If you have faith in something or someone who doesn't have the power to do what you want, your wishes might not be fulfilled since the object of your faith would be powerless."

Wally: "This is enlightening. The ability of the object of faith determines the realization of wishes and dreams. Now

that our object of faith is the Almighty, it goes without saying we're unstoppable."

Shades: "From today, guess who's going to be my object of faith?"

Jeremy: "Agape, of course. You guys have got philosophers on Earth. I want to know more of these things."

Mario: "You can be stupid at times, brainiac. This isn't philosophy, Jeremy; it's revelation and according to Ryan's account, it's the only thing we need."

Shades: "Wow! I've received revelation on faith. Henceforth, I'm going to use my faith to get everything solved."

Zach: "Guys, we can't stay. We have to fly back to Cybertron and back up the fighters."

Jeremy: "Man, is it really true Broly is on Agnam?"

Wally: "We're doomed if he's back."

Zach: "Wally, Son Goku will defeat him."

Mario: "How will he do that if he's away?"

Ryan: "Have a little faith, Mario. Reflect on the revelation we just received."

Mario: "But I'm afraid of Broly. And how am I supposed to have faith in the first place?"

Ryan: "Faith is present in every man. Our faith in reality is the faith of Agape, which He has deposited in each one of us. We're not supposed to have faith or have more faith; we simply acknowledge that we have it. We get our faith working by accepting all the good things in us since all good things are in Him and He's in us. Agape is love and His love is administered in grace. His grace has supplied all things that is good for us and His faith obtains for us everything that grace has supplied."

Shades: "I've just come up with a simpler way to activate my faith. That's my way of doing it and you'd better learn from me."

Jeremy: "What is it, Shades? I need it too."

Shades: "If you want our city out of trouble, think and talk positively like, 'Megatron will be busted and disassembled."

His parts will be used to make toys and other tools. When next time you see me with a new pair of glasses, I bet you some of his body parts will be there.”

Jeremy: “Is that what you meant? It’s not positive in any way, Shades. It’s rather negative.”

Wally: “If your glasses are made from his parts, he might revive and capture you with an eye technique and use you as puppet to carry out his conquest of Cybertron.”

Zach: “We’ll do with what Shades offers, Wally and it’s quite positive to me, Jeremy. Listen to this: ‘Decepticons will flee in different directions when we finish with them and you won’t find two going together, as is the case with that one up there.’”

Zach pointed at Blitzwing who was fleeing from the stadium after NSF agents defeated his companions.

Shades: “That’s it, Zach. What about you, Mario? Try one.”

Mario: “Yes, I can. Check this out: ‘Broly will serve as my mother’s brolly after Son Goku smashes him.’”

Zach: “Way to go, Mario. I prefer you like this instead of you playing the scared. Jeremy, now’s your turn.”

Jeremy: “I’m only trying; if it isn’t funny, it’s not my fault.”

Shades: “Relax, brain head; we’re not in a competition.”

Jeremy: “Here I come: ‘When the battle is over, Starscream will switch to vending ice-cream in the streets. Imagine the treatment the little brats will inflict on him.’”

Shades: “I wouldn’t want to be in his place for nothing in the world.”

Zach: “See, Jeremy; it wasn’t so hard. Over to you, Wally.”

Wally: “Can anyone solve this riddle: ‘What’s the difference between Broly and broccoli?’”

Mario: “None, since both finish up squashed by Son Goku and end up, you know where.”

They all dissolved into laughter after this one from Mario. Shades and Zach tapped each other’s hands, knowing that their friends had assimilated the message.

Zach: "You got it guys. Stay positive and you'll see we'll be out of trouble."

Ryan: "This isn't what I meant about faith, but if you'll have it this way, fine."

Denver pulled a long face when the two Earthlings were about to leave. He was also depressed because Noah wasn't with them. Zach and Ryan hugged him big and reassured him.

Zach: "Cheer up, big dino; Noah is in good hands. Agape watches over her; Alan too, and Cliffjumper three."

Ryan: "I promise we'll be back with those clowns once all this is over. Trust Him and trust Nootra. We'll overcome Broly."

Denver was comforted with these words and he let them go. After saying goodbye to their friends, Ryan and Zach took off to Secret Base L5. Their courage provoked the five Nootrans and they followed their example.

Jeremy: "Since our friends from Earth are committed to saving our galaxy, let's do the same by helping these people around."

Mario: "Don't worry, everyone for now enters super Mario the magnificent. All your problems will be solved instantly."

Shades: "Did somebody say the loser was back?"

Mario: "Speak for yourself, Shades."

Wally: "Remember what Ryan said. We can rely on the faith of Agape to become heroes. Let's start living it now."

Shades, Wally, Mario, Denver and Jeremy joined NSF agents in assisting the people traumatized by the Decepticons' aggression. None of them was seriously injured; never in the presence of their beloved Captain. Now Yamcha and Puar had reached Namek. They were lucky to meet Chaozu⁴² as they got out of the teleporter. Chaozu flew to them and they embraced each other.

Chaozu: "I'm glad to see you, Yamcha, Puar! What is this machine?"

⁴² Chaozu appears in *DBZ*. Korin and Korin's Tower appear in *DBZ*.

Yamcha: “No time to explain, Chaozu. We have a terrible situation in the galaxy. Broly is back and he threatens Cybertron and our fighters.”

Chaozu trembled on hearing the bad news.

Chaozu: “Broly? We’re lost. How are we going to defeat him this time?”

Yamcha: “Good we found you. Quick, use your communication faculty to find Goku and the rest of our companions. Tell them Optimus Prime wants them back immediately. Puar and I are heading for Korin’s Tower for some Senzu Beans; our fighters on Agnam will need them. Chaozu, it’s an emergency of the utmost order. Find Goku and tell him we’re on Code Red. Let him use Instant Transmission⁴³ to get you all to Agnam.”

Puar: “We trust you, Chaozu.”

Chaozu: “Count on me, friends. And be careful out there.”

Yamcha: “Sure, we will. Come in, Puar; let’s get to the tower.”

Yamcha and Puar left and Chaozu hastened to find Son Goku to pass on the information. Meanwhile on Agnam, the situation was disastrous in the camp of Nootra. Although Optimus Prime struggled hard, it was game over for him, the Autobots, X-Men and two young Saiyans. Broly overcame each one of them and left them unconscious on the surface of Agnam. Before going offline, Cliffjumper activated an invisible dome with a remote control, which hid Noah and Alan from the enemy. The two Earthlings watched the scene from the force field, and were startled by what had unfolded before their eyes.

Noah: “This can’t be happening. Trunks and Goten are knocked out; so are Prime, the Autobots and X-Men. All of our heroes have fallen. Not even Superman could fight him. What shall we do, Al?”

Alan: “Until I saw this, I never thought Broly could be so strong as to defeat even the Autobots and frighten the Man of Steel. Did we come here just to see the destruction of our heroes and their world? It’s so unfair.”

⁴³ Instant Transmission is a teleporting technique in *Dragon Ball*.

The place, which had witnessed intense fighting some minutes earlier, was calm again. Only the devastation was left as evidence of the ravage that took place. After making short work of his opponents, Broly landed on the ground of Agnam. He moved his eyes here and there and everywhere was filled with fallen heroes. He seemed disappointed for there was no one left to crush. After scanning the agents one by one, he fell on Son Goten again. He smiled satisfactorily since the young Nootran was still conscious. Broly rekindled his energy and walked towards him to exterminate him.

Noah: "No, this can't happen; not before my eyes. This one is real and no manga. Goten will be gone if we do nothing. Find something, Alan."

Alan: "If I knew it would come to this, I would have trained with Zach and Ryan. And what's keeping them so long?"

Noah: "Ryan used to say there's a better way to fight than physically. What would he do in such a situation?"

They looked at each other and it resurfaced on their minds. Alan and Noah knew what to do to help Goten. They held hands, closed their eyes and called on Agape. By this time, Broly had reached Son Goten. The young Saiyan saw him come yet he couldn't make a move. Broly stretched out a hand, grabbed Son Goten on the neck and raised him up. He contemplated the scene and let out peals of laughter for it was forever he longed for that moment. But when he was about to hit Goten with energy fist, Son Gohan arrived and struck him with an energy wave. Alan and Noah jumped up of relief.

Gohan: "Get your hands off my little brother, Broly."

Broly turned around and seeing Son Gohan, he once again said the only word he had uttered so far.

Broly: "Kakarot."

Broly looked happy to have another opponent who was no other than the first son of Goku, his enemy. He threw Goten away and went straight for Gohan.

Noah: "Gee, maybe we should continue holding hands."

The Battle of Agnam continued with the fight opposing Broly to Son Gohan. Son Gohan transformed into Super Saiyan and created numerous energy waves from his palms. He threw them continuously at Broly. Smoke covered the place, completely hiding Broly from sight. As Son Gohan waited for the smoke to disperse to see whether his attack amounted to anything, Broly came out of the midst and struck him with a mighty punch, putting him out of combat at once.

Before Son Gohan's defeat, Megatron and the Decepticons, not being far away, suspended the force field, which was keeping them invisible, and witnessed the battle at a reasonable distance.

Megatron: "Excellent. See, Soundwave; I told you the boy would do the whole task for us. When he finishes with the last one of the band, we'll put this crystal around his neck to control him and the job will be done."

Soundwave: "Nice work, Megatron."

Starscream: "I don't believe you. Can this immense power be controlled?"

Megatron: "Trust me, Starscream; I'm not leader of the Decepticons for nothing. I have dealings you don't know of."

Starscream: "I'm your right-hand robot, Megatron; I must know whatever you're doing. Tell me about your dealings."

Megatron: "Look at this crystal; Broly's father himself gave it to me. When I put it around his neck, that unruly boy will become as gentle as a little baby."

As Broly fixed his eyes on Son Gohan, holding him up as trophy to display his victory over Nootra, Megatron came behind him and put the crystal around his neck. Broly immediately dropped Gohan and struggled to take off the chain, but the effects were instantaneous. He all of a sudden calmed down, changed from Legendary Super Saiyan to his normal form and bowed to Megatron. When Broly was subdued, the Decepticons rejoiced.

Astrotrain: "Megatron has succeeded."

Soundwave: “Megatron is the true leader of the Decepticons.”

Starscream: “Shut up, Soundwave; there was no need making such an incongruous comment. Nonetheless, now we’ll conquer Cybertron and Nootra.”

While the Decepticons were talking about their presumed victory, a voice spoke from above.

Voice: “Your rejoicing is premature, Megatron. The real battle hasn’t begun yet.”

They all looked up and there they were. It was the whole band, floating over Agnam. Alan and Noah gently rose and gazed at the best moment of their miraculous adventure.

Alan: “We’re seeing it live with our very eyes.”

Noah: “It was true the order was believe first and then see His power.”

Alan: “This is the ultimate: Son Goku, Vegeta, Pikkoro, Tenshinhan, Chaozu and Dende.”⁴⁴

⁴⁴ Son Goku, Vegeta, Pikkoro, Tenshinhan and Dende appear in *DBZ*.

14 SON GOKU RETURNS

Legendary Super Saiyan Broly appeared on Agnam where a number of heroes and villains had gathered. He defeated all of Nootra's agents who came to fight Megatron and his allies. After crushing Autobots, X-Men and Saiyans, Megatron enslaved him with a crystal chain. As Megatron, Starscream, Astrotrain and Soundwave congratulated themselves on their victory over Nootra, the whole band of Son Goku appeared. It was at this critical moment that Zach and Ryan reached Agnam. They heard their friends call from inside the invisible dome and Ryan flew up to Cliffjumper and got the remote control. He suspended the dome and Noah and Alan became visible. Floating in space, the four Earthlings witnessed together the climax of their incredible journey with the arrival of the greatest fighters of the universe.

Noah: "Son Goku, Vegeta, Pikkoro, Tenshinhan, Chaozu and Dende."

Zach: "What do you know? My dream just got real."

Ryan: "I never doubted a second the fulfilment of our dreams, Zach."

The Earthlings could see him. There he was in front of them; it was him and no other - Son Goku. He was the same with his traditional orange and blue apparel, and long black hair. He was bursting with energy and Alan, Zach, Noah and Ryan could feel it. It was enormous and at the same time, pure and friendly. It was the first time they had such a sensation.

The atmosphere was overflowing with an aura of immense power, which unlike Broly's, wasn't destructive. Rather, the children felt confident and secure. Although such mighty power might frighten because it was impressively great, that wasn't the case. A visible kindness emanated from the one who was in its possession, and his presence gave the assurance of his goodwill. Son Goku's countenance was a mixture of might and benevolence, blended together to produce an impression, which made people have unfailing trust in him.

Alan: "This is the grand finale."

Zach: "His aura is almost touchable. It's phenomenal."

Noah: "Can a man with such overwhelming powers exist in this world?"

Ryan: "The good thing is he's on our side."

Yamcha arrived on Agnam at that time and hurriedly fed the fallen with Senzu Beans. He energized the Autobots with Energon he got from L4 whose fighters defeated the Insecticons and Stunticons and repaired the base, leaving it standing as strong as ever. Yamcha could get anywhere within seconds with Teleport Unlimited. And so in no time, the heroes were back on their feet and ready for a rematch against the enemies of Cybertron. After this moment of extreme sensations, the Earthlings finally came back to themselves and embraced each other for their reunion.

Alan: "You did it guys. I'm glad you're fine."

Noah: "You can't imagine what we witnessed. Broly defeated all of our heroes; not even Optimus Prime could oppose him. It was horrible. I thought I was going through a nightmare."

Ryan: "But Son Goku is here now and Nootra will take control over this battle."

Alan: "Yeah; now we're going to see Broly and Megatron shredded."

Ryan: "Al, that word is reserved for the Shredder. You don't shred Megatron, you deceive him."

Noah: "Hey guys, check out Zach. He's finally met Dende."

Zach was particularly fond of the little Namek. Dende was his favourite in the anime and so he left his companions and hurried to speak to him before fighting resumed. The two greeted each other.

Zach: "It's years I've wanted to meet you, Dende. I hope we'll get to know each other better after the battle."

Dende: "Thanks for wanting to be my friend, Zach. Sure, when we're done here, I'll show you around my palace. It's beyond Korin's Tower."

Pikkoro, the big green Namek, spoke to Dende by telepathy and the boy left Zach and went to him. Pikkoro had been Son Goku's enemy until he was undeniably converted to the good cause. It was he who trained the first son of the Saiyan and acted as his guardian the many times Son Goku was absent.

Pikkoro: "Who's that person you were talking to? I'll extract information from him. He's from planet Earth and there are four of them here on Agnam. They really come from afar. I didn't know Earth possessed a technology, which transported people to other dimensions."

Dende: "Pikkoro, the people of planet Earth, they're noble, aren't they?"

Pikkoro: "It's you who say so, Dende. You've made one of them your friend already and you didn't need my opinion. But come; Gohan needs you to treat him. I prefer you treat him personally instead of him eating the Senzu Beans. Your newly acquired healing powers will make him stronger."

Pikkoro and Dende went to see Gohan who was lying on the surface of Agnam. Dende placed his hands on him and began to heal him.

Gohan: "Sorry, Pikkoro; I failed to defend Nootra in your absence. If you, dad and the guys hadn't come in time, the heroes would all be gone."

Pikkoro: "I don't think you failed at any point, Gohan. Can't you see? Everybody is standing and we've lost nothing in our ranks. Dende will get you back to your feet quickly enough. Join us immediately after. This will be the biggest battle we've ever fought and we must give our best."

Gohan: "Thanks, Pikkoro. Dende, how long will it last? I'm impatient to go take my place next to my father, master and friends and fight for my city."

Dende: "You'll join them in less than five minutes. You know, Gohan; I improved my medical skills in Namek. It's my home planet and I learned a lot the little time we stayed there."

When Son Goku and his band arrived at the battle site, Megatron hastily called back his allies by emitting sonic

waves through Soundwave's abilities. Meanwhile in the heroes' camp, the fallen had recovered and they reported the situation to the newly arrived.

Son Goku: "Prime, you and your teams have been excellent, but it was Broly. I'll take it from here."

Vegeta: "Nonsense. This time, it's my turn to fight Broly and defeat him."

Optimus Prime: "Broly isn't the only one we have to fight, Vegeta. Megatron sent a signal and his allies are on the way. Let's be alert lest they take us by surprise."

Pikkoro: "I see their situation; they'll be here at any moment. Prime, post Autobots against Decepticons on the left. Cyclops, keep the X-Men ready at my right; Galactus is coming from there. Trunks, Goten, hold your positions and stay alert."

Cyclops: "Silver Surfer is one of us. Yamcha, track him down with Teleport Unlimited and bring him here. Superman got rid of Thanos; now's left only Magneto."

At the sound of Son Goku's voice, Broly's appearance changed. The calm posture he took when Megatron put the crystal around his neck disappeared, and he started to be troubled and agitated. His rage resurfaced and his power began to manifest, increasing at every minute. He soon transformed into Super Saiyan, but his appearance was different due to the influence of the crystal. Unlike the Super Saiyan normal mode, Broly's hair was neon-blue with a purple tint, and his muscles swelled slightly. He began to walk towards Son Goku, calling him by the name the Saiyans gave him before he became a Nootran.

Broly: "Kakarot, Kakarot, Kakarot."

Son Goku: "Broly, I warn you for the last time: never lift your hand against my sons again."

But Broly pounced on Goku and the awaited confrontation between Son Goku and Broly began. The two strongest Saiyans entered into action, and none could tell the outcome of the battle. Heroes, however, hoped Son Goku would emerge victorious, as had always been the case. As this fight was going on, other combats were welling up.

Astrotrain: "Shall we attack the enemy now, Megatron? I'm almost sick of inaction."

Starscream: "You can't be sick, Astrotrain; you're a robot."

Megatron: "I told you to relax and let Broly fight for us. When he defeats all of them, we'll take back Cybertron and nobody will be there to stop us. Starscream, this boy is my ticket to success."

Soundwave: "Negative, Megatron. We won't have time to relax."

Optimus Prime landed where Megatron and his band had grouped, somewhere on the surface of Agnam.

Optimus Prime: "It's enough, Megatron. End this game now!"

Megatron: "There you go again in imperative mode. Did it ever cross your mind I could listen to you, especially when everything is going well for me? Don't be foolish, Prime; you're the one to give up trying to stop me."

When Optimus Prime came to fight Megatron, this one asked his peers to leave him alone with his rival for their never-ending duel. The three Decepticons went to find the other Autobots to fight them. Yet two more Nootrans came to the site to back up their colleague.

Pikkoro: "Maybe you need that someone presses you a little, Tron. I don't mind volunteering for that task, Prime. Once Megatron is defeated, his band will scatter and we'll have Broly only to deal with."

Wolverine: "Count me in your ranks, green and machine men. Megatron, you'll pay for what the X-Men suffered at the hands of Broly."

Megatron: "Don't think it'll be easy to beat me. I am Megatron, leader of the Decepticons, and we're the mightiest robots in the galaxy."

Pikkoro: "No wonder you're Decepticons. You even deceive yourselves into thinking you're the mightiest."

Optimus Prime: "Pikkoro, Wolverine, we're doing this together."

Megatron: “Three against one. I didn’t know you Nootrans could sink so low as to do such injustice; though Junior and the wolf have nothing to be angels.”

Optimus Prime: “You, minding justice? That’s the big one.”

Wolverine: “You’re right, bob. I’m no angel and I’m going to show you just what my name means.”

Pikkoro, Wolverine and Optimus Prime attacked Megatron and the four engaged in a long distance confrontation. Optimus Prime fired several shots at Megatron from his handgun. Pikkoro sent fire blasts from his fingers and yellow ring rays from his forehead while Wolverine watched for an opening to spring on him. Megatron riposted with fire projectiles from his arm cannon. The two camps exchanged blasts for a while though none had the other from that distance. Wolverine finally clung to Megatron’s foot and climbed to the level of his stomach. With Adamantium claws, he tried to cut through his body, but Megatron’s body was of cybertronic metal and Wolverine scratched only the surface without seriously damaging it.

Megatron quickly changed tactic and started moving in a way as to avoid the fires of Optimus Prime and Pikkoro’s destructive rays. He was so fast he destabilized Wolverine in one of his movements. Wolverine almost fell from the altitude he had attained yet clinging to a dislocated metal on Megatron’s body, he jumped from there to get to his head. Seeing that Wolverine had reached a delicate part of his body, Megatron gave the X-Men no time to try anything. He called Soundwave and transformed into a gun, which Soundwave used to shoot at his opponents. Before going to fight by Megatron’s side, Soundwave was with Starscream, who gathered his fellow Decepticons aside to reason with them.

Starscream: “Astrotrain, Soundwave, listen. We, Decepticons, fear no one, but we must be tactical. Megatron’s kid will destroy us all if he continues. It would be better to stop him now.”

Soundwave: “Megatron hasn’t said so. We must wait for his orders.”

Starscream: "Can't you see Megatron has lost control of Broly? That kid is mad at Goku and now that Kakarot has shown his face, no one will be able to control him."

Astrotrain: "What do you suggest we do? I don't think you can persuade Megatron."

Starscream: "Who needs to persuade him? I'll fly over him now that Optimus is distracting him. I'll take the remote and use it to control Broly myself. We will first retreat and when the kid calms down and Goku is out of the way, we'll come back in full force and destroy Nootra. At that time, I'll be leader of the Decepticons."

As Starscream and his peers were discussing, the Autobots intruded into the meeting.

Skyfire: "It's not good to conspire against your master behind his back. I see you have no honour, Starscream, even when it comes to your loyalty towards your infamous leader."

Starscream: "Skyfire traitor. You were right to have left the Decepticons - there's no deceit in you. And speaking of honour, honour this missile yourself."

Starscream fired a rocket at Skyfire and the two transformed into jets and took off. They threw missiles at each other as they went brawling in space.

Astrotrain: "There are the other Autobots. Though it's only the two of us, Soundwave and though you always keep your human robotic form, I'll still say it: Decepticons, transform and attack."

Astrotrain transformed into a train and rolled towards Ironhide. The Autobot also transformed into a car and engaged him. The two fought at the wheel, and soon crashed into each other. As for Soundwave, he released some mini-cassettes from his chest opening, and these transformed into smaller robots: the human robot Rumble, the bird robot Laserbeak and the animal robot Ravage. Soundwave sent them against Bluestreak and Bumblebee who besieged him.

As his adversaries pressed him, Megatron called for Soundwave. He transformed into a gun and Soundwave held him to shoot at Pikkoro and Optimus Prime. That still

wasn't enough to stop the heroes. Seeing that his tactic wasn't working, Megatron transformed again, this time into a jet fighter and fired at his adversaries from above. But Optimus Prime followed him to the sky. He caught him and dragged him down to the surface of Agnam. Megatron took back his human robotic form and the leaders of both factions of transforming robots clashed out with metallic punches and clanging blows. Meanwhile, Brawn and Ratchet joined Pikkoro in fighting Soundwave.

When these combats were going on, the prince of Saiyans was enraged because he found no adversary of his stature.

Vegeta: "Why should Goku always get to fight Broly? I'm prince of Saiyans yet nobody wants to recognize my worth in this world."

Trunks: "Hey dad; a whole lot of villains are coming in this direction. You can fight the gargantuan Galactus if you wish."

Silver Surfer was back by then and he allowed no one to fight Galactus except himself.

Silver Surfer: "Galactus is mine. None should interfere in this duel. I'll repair my past mistakes by destroying him."

Vegeta: "You were saying? If there's no one for me, I'll have to fight you, Trunks."

Trunks: "Sorry dad. Sure, some villain will show up at any moment."

Trunks was right for no sooner had he spoken than the last of Megatron's allies showed his face on Agnam. Apocalypse,⁴⁵ the ancient mutant, stood in front of Vegeta and seemed to want to fight the Saiyan.

Apocalypse: "You're my man, Vegeta. It's a long time since I crushed anyone. You're the perfect insect to add to my collection."

⁴⁵ Apocalypse is a Marvel Comics super villain. He was created by Louise Simonson and Walter Simonson and first appeared in *X-Factor* #5 (June 1986).

Vegeta: "You now work for Megatron? How the mighty are fallen! Back in the day, you used to say you were stronger than him."

Apocalypse: "I'm working for no one. I just want to take down all of you, Megatron included. You heroes have been an obstruction to my plan for centuries. I'll use this opportunity to wipe you out permanently."

Vegeta: "Then why waste time talking? Admit you're terrified to confront the strongest man in the world."

Apocalypse: "You, the strongest man in the world? You're just throwing empty words to hide your weakness. You can't hold a candle to me, Vegeta."

Vegeta: "Old man, you had better remained in oblivion. Now you'll witness, to your own detriment, the new powers I obtained through my intense training on Namek."

Apocalypse: "Training has nothing to do with true power. Saiyans are limited for you depend on training to upgrade your powers. Apocalypse is bound by nothing of that sort. I'm the most powerful man alive. Even time is subject to me."

Vegeta: "Foolishness. While we were training, others were sleeping. The difference between the two will be revealed in broad daylight. Apocalypse, you're only a ghost from the past and your days are over. And one more thing you should know: we also cast ghosts out."

Apocalypse: "Why should I even bother to answer a wimp like you?"

Vegeta: "I'm of royal descent and nothing of the freak you are. Come taste the power of the prince of Saiyans if you have the guts."

After this unfriendly exchange of words, Vegeta and Apocalypse went for another kind of exchange; one of blows, punches, energy blasts and so on. Although some heroes were engaged in the various combats taking place on Agnam, others remained still. They judged it useless to fight the villains when Broly was around and posed a far greater threat. After analyzing the clash between Son Goku and his adversary, they had insight into the unfolding of things.

Zach: "We can't just stand here and watch. We can't just be doing nothing when everybody is risking their lives."

Tenshinhan: "Zach of Earth, you'd better spare your energy. Our champion will have need of it."

Ryan: "What do you mean, Tenshinhan?"

Wheeljack: "Watch closely, Ryan; Goku is losing the round. Broly is getting stronger every second and Goku can't match up to him."

Zach: "Son Goku is the strongest and he will defeat Broly. There'll be no other result."

Dende: "Son Goku's energy reserve is almost zero. He won't prevail at this rate, Zach."

Noah: "There must be a way to reverse the situation. I've never seen Son Goku lose. He can't lose. It's impossible."

Cyclops: "I agree, kid. Goku can't lose because he has people with him. He needs our help in this combat."

Jean Grey: "Zach said it; there's no other result, except Goku's victory. We're here to support him and win this battle together."

Alan: "How are we going to do that? Should we all charge at Broly at once?"

Tenshinhan: "The highest we can do is give our energy to Goku."

Wolverine: "What's the trouble with that kid? Can't he do anything on his own for once? Must we give him our energy whenever he fights?"

Storm: "Are you three done with Megatron, Logan?"

Wolverine: "I'd rather leave robots tear themselves apart. Don't worry, Ororo; Prime is taking good care of him and wants nobody interfering. Ratchet, Brawn and Pikkoro should be done with Soundwave. As for that Goku, he's just as useless as the Decepticons. Why was he called if he had to use our energy to do the job?"

Archangel: "Woovy, you know it's the only way out. There's nothing else we can do to get rid of Broly apart from this."

Wolverine displayed Adamantium claws and jumped threateningly on Archangel.

Wolverine: “Call me Woovy again and I promise you, angel you’ll never use those adorable wings again.”

15 ENEMIES TURN ALLIES

The Decepticons and their allies attacked Cybertron, a planet under Nootra's protection. NSF subsequently undertook a mission to end Megatron's invasion campaign. The battle was held on one of Cybertron's moons. Agnam witnessed an exceptional moment when two of the most formidable fighters of the galaxy came into confrontation. Yet Broly, the more dreadful of the two, made the difference in that fight. On seeing the gap between Son Goku and his opponent, the Nootrans perceived the duel wasn't in favour of their champion.

The battle opposing Son Goku to Broly intensified as Broly grew more and more agitated. His energy doubled and the pressure broke the crystal chain Megatron put around his neck. Free from Megatron's control, Broly discharged a great deal of energy until the sky over Agnam turned green. He had reached the climax of rage and was uncontrollable. Then his body overflowed with the weight of his energy like an open reservoir. At the end of this demonstration was the return of the Legendary Super Saiyan.

An eerie sensation filled Agnam and its surrounding following this exhibition from the strongest Saiyan of the millennium. Cybertron's largest moon brightened exceptionally after being taken under Broly's energy field. This devastating power forced villains and heroes out of fighting. Son Goku was highly engaged in this combat for he was determined to stop Broly from harming. Far from being impressed by the Legendary Super Saiyan, Son Goku transformed into Super Saiyan 2.⁴⁶ His outfit changed to faded yellow; his hair turned golden and flashes of lightning enveloped him. His black eyes turned green and he wore a serious face as he went head-to-head with Broly.

Son Goku appeared before the enemy and grabbed his neck, then unleashed a punch in his stomach. Broly coughed blood from that blow, but this had no serious effect on him for he stopped Goku's fist when he brought it

⁴⁶ Super Saiyan 2 is the 2nd transformation of a Saiyan in *DBZ*.

a second time to punch him. Broly riposted with a blow on Goku's jaw and this destabilized Nootra's champion. Broly continued by grabbing Goku on the face and he kneed him with great force in the stomach. Son Goku bowed in pain but Broly slammed him on the back with both hands. This strike sent Goku hurtling to the ground of Agnam. As Son Goku was falling, Broly sent two small green energy spheres after him. These followed the Nootran and blasted him when he hit the ground. Broly subsequently enabled his energy shield and rushed to the surface to smash Goku with the weight of his body. But Son Goku rolled over and evaded the gigantic slam.

Having recovered from his setback, Son Goku got up and glared at Broly as this one pulled himself together after hitting the ground of Agnam. Broly rose and moved towards him. Son Goku didn't stir for he was concentrating energy. As Broly rushed to punch him, Son Goku held back his fist and transformed into Super Saiyan 3. His golden hair grew longer and passed his back; his forehead hardened and he had a sterner expression. When he resumed fighting, his movements were faster and his fists, harder. Son Goku started throwing endless punches and kicks on Broly. He knocked him all over and projected him to the sky with a blow on his chin.

Son Goku gave Broly no respite, but he followed him upwards and catching his feet, turned him around several times and flung him in the direction of a passing comet. Son Goku finally used his signature technique, the Kamehameha.⁴⁷ He put both hands together and forming an energy wave from his palms, sent the continuous flow after Broly. The Kamehameha struck Broly and pushed him headlong into the comet. Broly crashing into the comet was like the collision of two massive spatial bodies. The villain went many kilometres into the rock until the core. Dust covered the zone after the impact and nothing of the comet was seen.

Son Goku had used a large amount of energy to produce an attack of that magnitude and he was weakened afterwards. He remained floating in space, waiting to see

⁴⁷ Super Saiyan 3 is the 3rd power transformation of a Saiyan in *DBZ*. Kamehameha is a power technique in *Dragon Ball*.

the result of his offensive. The Earthlings and some agents who were watching celebrated at this outcome.

Noah: "Son Goku did it. He has defeated Broly."

Chaozu: "Congratulations, Son Goku. I'm proud of you."

Pikkoro: "Don't celebrate too soon, children. You don't finish off Broly so easily."

Gohan: "So easily, Pikkoro? Dad gave everything he had there."

Pikkoro: "It would surprise me if that was the end. It's never so simple with Broly. I've seen him crushed several times and I've seen him return even stronger. Watch carefully, Gohan. The dust is dissipating."

Gohan: "You've got to be kidding me. How did he survive that?"

Dende: "And Son Goku has given everything he had."

As friends and foes continued to watch, there was an explosion from the comet. Debris of hard and fine rocks showered down until the place where the fighters floated. The comet had burst and no sizeable mass remained. Before the dust cleared entirely, the Legendary Super Saiyan emerged from the depths with an angry expression on his face.

Broly was furious because of his earlier setback and retaliated right away by accumulating a great deal of energy in his hand, which started tiny and gradually increased on contact with the debris of the shattered comet. This energy concentration soon became a large electrifying green wave. Broly lifted it up and left it suspending in the air. He stretched out a hand and from his two fingers came a flash, which pushed the electrifying wave towards Goku. Son Goku had exhausted his energy and was neither strong enough to stop it nor fast enough to duck it.

The wave overtook him and hit his body, crushing him against a mountain on Agnam. There were quakes, volcanoes and floods as a result of the impact. When Son Goku was falling, the Earthlings closed their eyes not to

witness the horrible scene. The Nootrans watched and seeing what had transpired, they feared for their world.

Son Goku slid down the mountain and collapsed on Agnam surface. Super Saiyan 3 ceased and he regained his normal form. His sons, Gohan and Goten, rushed to him to protect him against any eventual attack from Broly. Meanwhile, Broly made the galaxy tremble with a defiant laughter of victory. The fighters stood still, immobilized with fear at the defeat of Goku and at what that meant to their world. All of Megatron's allies had returned by then and Broly's monstrous power disturbed some sensible ones.

Magneto: "Megatron, Broly has become too dangerous. He'll destroy everything if he continues. We must do something to contain him."

Starscream: "And I warned you but you wouldn't listen."

Megatron: "Spare me your reproaches, Starscream."

Soundwave: "We're in bigger trouble now that the crystal is broken."

Astrotrain: "How are we going to get him back under control?"

Megatron: "I'm working on it, Astrotrain, and I'm open to suggestions."

Starscream: "It's too late, Megatron. Figure out a plan yourself. If Goku couldn't do anything against him, I doubt you or anyone can."

Magneto: "We're lucky NSF is here; they're good at working out any situation. Cyclops, Prime and Pikkoro will surely come up with something. Let's see what solution they'll find to this crisis."

Starscream: "Decepticons have nothing to do with Autobots. Megatron should have told you this before you enrolled."

Magneto: "Enrolled? Megatron, you should teach your subordinates to respect your allies. I request an apology."

Starscream: "Subordinate? Next time you'll see I've dethroned Megatron and become the uncontested leader of the Decepticons. Then I'll make you regret your insults."

Megatron: "Don't pay attention to Starscream, Magnus; he lacks tact in dealing with sensitive issues. Starscream, how many times have I told you, you must become stronger than me first if you want to lead the Decepticons?"

Magneto: "Megatron, isn't it dangerous to walk with rivals who are only waiting to stab you behind your back?"

Megatron: "The real conspirators don't reveal their intention as Starscream does. So there's nothing to fear from him. It's the Saiyan our main problem now."

Silver Surfer and Galactus also cut short their fight. Galactus was particularly amazed by the devastating power of Broly and he feared for his meals.

Galactus: "Here's a problem indeed! If they don't stop that kid quickly enough, there'll be no more planets left for me. And when the great hunger will come upon me, I won't have anything to eat. Then I'll starve."

Silver Surfer: "Are you saying that to me? Galactus, I don't care if you starve. Thinking again, I'd be glad about it."

Galactus: "Megatron has failed. I shouldn't have allied myself with him in the first place. My Silver Surfer, you know you're my beloved herald. If you repent and return to me, I'll receive you. We'll leave this galaxy and move to another. You'll find more planets for me to feed on when the great hunger comes upon me."

Silver Surfer: "In your dreams, Galactus. Never again will I serve you. I'll destroy you instead and avenge the many people your gluttony left desolate."

Galactus: "What insolence! You have had your chance, Surfer and it was the very last. Even if you come begging in tears and kneeling, I won't take you back."

Silver Surfer: "Fine. This case is closed then. Once Goku disposes of Broly, I'll send you to oblivion."

Galactus: "Nonsense. That Saiyan is down and you still put your trust in him?"

Silver Surfer: "This is something you'll never understand, Galactus; you who are big and think the little ones are there to serve as your subjects. These people are fighting

for their survival and there's no way they're ever losing such a fight."

The heroes and their foes stopped fighting each other and watched Broly making a show of his matchless strength. None among them could challenge him. Realizing they were all in danger because of that immense uncontrollable power, they mixed together.

Storm: "Is there nothing we can do to stop him?"

Archangel: "If Goku is beaten, there's little hope for our galaxy."

Magneto: "Jean, try and see if you can talk to Broly through your psyche."

Cyclops: "No way, Magneto. I won't allow Jean to risk her life again."

Jean Grey: "Don't worry, Scott; I'll only try."

Wolverine: "Forget it, Red; you're not trying anything."

Megatron: "This boy can't jeopardize my plan. I've worked too tirelessly on it to let it fall apart just because one kid is mad at another. I can still postpone it to the future instead of risking losing Cybertron for good. Time-out, Prime; let's join forces and get rid of Broly."

Ironhide: "Excuse me? I think I hallucinated. Did Megatron just say we should join forces? I thought Decepticons never allied themselves with Autobots."

Megatron: "Spare me your sarcasm, Ironhide. Only fools don't change their mind when they see reason. You think I'm foolish enough to let this boy shatter my hopes for the future?"

Jazz: "To be honest, Megatron, I thought you were."

Megatron: "Jazz, I'm a conqueror not an exterminator. Of all people, you Autobots should know me better. Optimus, you haven't answered me yet."

Optimus Prime: "Well, Megatron; Nootra accepts your offer."

When Optimus Prime accepted the deal with Megatron, there were mixed feelings in the two camps, among heroes and villains.

Apocalypse: "Too bad. Just when we were having lots of fun!"

Vegeta: "Most unfortunate indeed! I was just getting warmed up. Apocalypse, you tasted only an iota of the powers of the prince of Saiyans."

Megatron: "If you were not late, Apocalypse, perhaps we would have avoided this humiliating compromise. Even the gargantuan Galactus made it on time, but I cannot say the same of you."

Apocalypse: "I said I would join you at my convenience and it happened that I was delayed. But here we are, allying with foes."

Ratchet: "Are you sure of this, Prime? You think Megatron will stick to his word and not attack us when we're off guard?"

Ironhide: "Ratchet has a point. Optimus, they're Decepticons and are bent on deceiving. They need no skills for that; they do it naturally."

Wheeljack: "Yeah. I can't count the many times Megatron pretended to be sincere and duped us in the end. I can't trust him."

Optimus Prime: "If it depended on fear, nothing would be accomplished in the world. There are situations that leave you with no choice but to trust your enemy, even if in this case it's Megatron. He has too much pride to make this ultimate offer and deceive in return. My fellow Autobots, I call you to trust me on this one. I have the intuition Megatron is sincere and won't turn on us. We're called to work together with Decepticons today."

Megatron: "We don't have all day for you to afford the luxury of doubts. Let me know when you're done with the unbelief."

Finding no other strategy to defeat Broly than this association, Pikkoro confirmed the formation of the alliance between NSF and the Decepticons.

Pikkoro: "No battle is won without taking risks. Nootrans, the Decepticons are our allies in this phase of the battle."

Megatron: "Well then, Nootra; how do we proceed?"

Storm: “The first thing you ought to do, Megatron is order Decepticons to stop fighting in the city and withdraw your troops from Cybertron.”

Megatron: “Soundwave, send a signal to the Decepticons in Nootra and the three secret bases in the city. Also, contact Octane and the Combaticons⁴⁸ in Cybertron. Tell them the mission is aborted.”

Soundwave: “At your command, Megatron.”

Soundwave transmitted these orders to the Decepticons, although Nootra’s agents had already defeated most of them.

Cyclops: “I’ve received confirmation from Central that Decepticons have ceased fighting in Nootra, L2 and L3. L4 had already neutralized Menasor and the Insecticons. Alpha Trion confirms Decepticons’ demilitarization of Cybertron.”

Pikkoro: “Megatron, I want to know if Galactus and Apocalypse adhere to this alliance.”

Megatron: “Don’t underrate my diplomatic ability, big green man. My allies don’t dispute my decisions; they understand fully what alliance means. You should learn that as well.”

Apocalypse: “You think villains don’t have a heart? We know when the situation is critical and needs our intervention.”

Galactus: “The only guarantee you’ll get from me is that I won’t attack you. Don’t expect anything more.”

Vegeta: “Stupid villains; they don’t make them like they used to. In my day, once a villain was a villain, he was a villain. Now they have a heart and what else? By the way, do ghosts, machines and energy beings possess a heart?”

Apocalypse: “In your day, huh? How come you turned into the good side, Vegeta, you who once were a villain? I see you finally acknowledged your constant defeats at the hands of the heroes and resigned yourself to joining them. You accepted fighting alongside Goku and remain in his

⁴⁸ Octane & the Combaticons (Decepticons), Alpha Trion (Autobot) appear in *The Transformers*.

shadow instead of being humiliated every time you faced him. Am I not right?"

Vegeta: "If you're trying to make me doubtful, Apocalypse let me tell you you've failed. I know why I became a Nootran and I don't need to justify myself to you. Only hypocrites do that kind of thing. You'll learn not to hurl insults at me once I've thrown you down mercilessly."

Tenshinhan: "We're now allies, Vegeta and are called to join forces for a noble cause. Let's respect our commitments and work together. I think that's what Optimus and Megatron are about to say."

The Autobot Optimus Prime and the Decepticon Megatron, in an audible manner, addressed the people present on Agnam at that moment of destiny.

Megatron: "Comrades, companions, allies once enemies: we cut this battle short and fight side by side to stop Broly from destroying all that we've worked for all these centuries. What we're called to be this day isn't something I'm proud of, but we aren't brutes who fold arms while our world falls apart. We ally with enemies for this cause. Let everyone do their part to save our planets, galaxy and home."

Optimus Prime: "Today, Autobots and Decepticons have become allies and only one group of robots remains: the Transformers, as the Earthlings call us. Today on Agnam, Nootra with friends from Earth and Silver Surfer ally with the Transformers, Galactus, Magneto and Apocalypse to expel a common enemy - Broly. Friends, comrades, companions, allies, let's do this together and prevail."

There yet was one fighter who couldn't stand the coalition; Starscream the Decepticon. He considered it humiliating to ally with their all-time foes the Autobots. He failed to understand that what was being written down on Agnam was history to be remembered as one of the marking moments of the universe; the day Earth, Nootra, Transformers, villains and heroes all came together and fought as one.

Starscream: "Traitor. Megatron, you're a traitor. Decepticons never ally with Autobots. This is pure treason."

Astrotrain: "Starscream, I'm tired of you always contesting Megatron's decisions even when he does right."

Soundwave: "It's the wisest decision he's ever made."

Starscream: "You can also admit, Soundwave that he never makes wise decisions. But if you two are stooges of Megatron, I, Starscream, am not. Soundwave, you never object to his decisions and you, Astrotrain have been contaminated by the attitude of Soundwave."

Rumble: "Megatron said he didn't like the alliance either. Yet we must confess the word Optimus Prime used to refer to all of us as one was cool - the Transformers."

Starscream: "Don't tell me you all fell for this Transformers project?"

Astrotrain: "Skyfire and you fought side by side in the past and you told me how exciting it was. I'm sure it'll be the same with the other Autobots. Let's do it just this once."

Starscream: "Ally with the Autobots? Never."

Starscream transformed into a jetfighter and took off and flew away from Agnam, leaving his comrades behind. Astrotrain wanted to go after him but Megatron called him back.

Megatron: "Allow him, Astrotrain. This hurts me even more than him, but when you're leader, you must swallow your pride sometimes and make compromises. Starscream isn't ready for that yet."

Everybody trembled with fear when Broly crushed Son Goku, except one, Zach the Earthling. Goku's presence filled him with confidence and he was certain what happened was only a setback and not the end. He had never seen Goku defeated; he might lose a round but he never gave up the fight. Zach knew Son Goku would overcome Broly and he tried to transfer the same confidence to his comrades. So in the hearing of all, the

young Earthling lifted up his voice and when he began to speak, all eyes were raised on him.

Zach: “Why do you tremble, as if you didn’t know who he is? Why doubt as if he hadn’t proved how resourceful he is? It’s him - Son Goku; the fighter among fighters. It’s Son Goku, the chosen Saiyan, strongest man in this world. He’s afraid of nothing and will fight to save his friends. Broly might be Legendary Super Saiyan yet the outcome of this battle is certain: Son Goku wins! He wins because he’s fighting for love, for justice, for the safety of the people of the universe. He never lets his friends down; it’s for them he’s a fighter. He doesn’t win because of his brawn; he wins because of his heart, the very place where every battle is won.

‘When Agape became man, He didn’t use His fists or any weapon to fight. He opened His heart and saved man by the power of His love. That’s how He defeated evil and won everlasting victory. There was no reason to believe Him if He hadn’t proved His love. His ultimate was revealed when He transferred His nature to us, thus birthing us as sons. The one thing I see in all this is love, which is the Cause, the reason, the meaning and motivation for everything. This is the good fight we’re destined to win for He has preordained victory for us in the Son.

‘Arise, Son Goku the Saiyan. You’ll prevail once again. It’s not today you’ll forsake your loved ones, family, citizens, comrades, friends or the universe. You’re not alone; Agape has fortified you with people. We’re with you in this battle and we’ll give you our strength because we know you’re fighting for us. Our love strengthens you and you receive the power to overcome anything, which threatens us. Son Goku the Saiyan and Nootran, you win this battle for us.

‘Listen to me, everyone in the galaxy; every people, creature, object and element: give your energy to Son Goku. He can’t do it by himself; he needs our strength to overcome Broly. In the presence of Agape and before man and nature, the visible and invisible: we hold hands together, our connection with each other releases our

energy, our energy is transferred to Son Goku, he's fortified by our love and we win this battle as one.

“There's no alternative here; only victory for the people of the galaxy. Agape is with us; He's in us and for us. He wants us living, He wants us in love, He wants us happy. Let it be known today in the universe that we've overcome in the Son.”

16 WIN AS ONE

It was a historic moment for Brave Galaxy. On Agnam was the formation of a first-time alliance involving Nootra, city of superheroes, allying with Earth, in the persons of Noah, Alan, Ryan and Zach, and with Silver Surfer, the Transformers, comprising Autobots and Decepticons, and with Galactus, Magneto and Apocalypse. These represented the being for which everything existed in the universe: Man. The reason for this union was to defend the world against a common enemy - the most dreadful fighter the galaxy ever produced.

Broly was a warrior of matchless strength, issuing from the proud race of Saiyans, a race of born fighters. These people lived to conquer and subdue other peoples until another conqueror destroyed their planet and scattered them all across the universe. One famous story about Saiyans concerned two lovely babies born on the same day yet sharing an opposing destiny. The first was Broly and the other, Kakarot. Broly, the calm one, possessed a power level far superior to that of normal Saiyans. He was cast him out because his people feared his power. Kakarot, the noisy one, though having nothing impressive at birth, was the one who was retained.

The latter found refuge in Nootra after his planet was destroyed. The people adopted him and Kakarot the Saiyan became Son Goku the hero. He embraced the values of his city and stood to defend that civilization with all the fantastic strength nature endowed him with as a Saiyan. Added to his natural abilities was the advantage the iconic civilization Nootra gave him. He was a Saiyan who, contrary to precept, lived in an environment, which favoured love and justice rather than violence and the subjugation of peoples. So he excelled beyond measure, even above all his siblings, as any Saiyan would when they were at the service of people.

The former had another destiny. He grew up with the notion of the injustice his people did to him. And he associated that injustice with the one who slept next to his

cradle, whose incessant cries didn't stop haunting him. He didn't forget those early hours of his life and he lived to take revenge on he who was chosen instead of him. His hunger for vengeance combined with his formidable strength to produce the one known in the galaxy as Broly the Legendary Super Saiyan. He had the chance to avenge himself on that day where fate brought him to Agnam, a satellite of planet Cybertron.

Broly had been threatening the heroes and their world with his monstrous strength. Son Goku, Nootra's champion, was knocked out after his first confrontation with him. That wasn't the end though. Nootra and their allies decided to join in the fight by bequeathing their energy to Goku. Zachary gave them the incentive for that. In Galaxy Brave of Dimension 2C519, man and nature revived through a wonderful speech coming from the depths of the heart of a young man from Earth. Those sacred words resulted in what Alan would call the heavenly.

The moment Zach finished his faith-filled speech, all the fighters present, without hesitation, held hands. They released their energy and bequeathed it to Son Goku. Megatron set the example. He took the hand of Optimus Prime on his left and that of Rumble on his right while Laserbeak rested on his right shoulder and Ravage, at his foot. The Transformers followed in the footsteps of their leaders. Autobots and Decepticons mingled by holding each other's hands.

Wolverine took Magneto's hand on the left and Archangel's on the right while Archangel had Storm on his right. Cyclops had Magneto on his right and Jean Grey on his left. Galactus took Silver Surfer in his hand, but Vegeta refused to hold Apocalypse's hand. Pikkoro came and stood between the two and took their hands while Trunks took his father's right hand. Gohan and Goten were with their father, supporting him. Zach took Dende's hand, and so followed Alan, Noah, Ryan, Yamcha with Puar on his shoulder and Tenshinhan with Chaozu on his shoulder. They all held each other's hands, forming a wide circle on Agnam. Through their connection with each other, their energy was released and transferred to Son Goku.

Meanwhile, fighting in Nootra had stopped. The Decepticons and their allies obeyed Megatron and followed the instructions. Nootra Security Forces passed the message to agents who made it known to citizens. Everybody raised their eyes to outer space and held hands to give their energy to Son Goku. The inmates of the Frightful Forest were not left out. Rahan, Tarzan, Conan, Samba, Leuk, Freeza, Wrath-Amon, Windfang and their companions and foes with the animals all together danced to the tune. It was the same attitude in the Nootra Intergalactic Stadium. Enemies and friends acted on the directives although it wasn't pleasant to everyone. Even some prominent ones among them were reluctant.

Superman: "Batman, take my hand."

Batman: "Goku can do without me. I think he'll have enough energy."

Thor: "It takes everybody to be the world. The galaxy is counting on you as well, Dark Knight. Tell him, Cap."

Captain Nootra: "We still need your energy, no matter how insignificant it might be. Remember; it's our heart, our connection with each other, that gives Goku the strength."

Batman: "I'm connected in my own way, Cap."

Flash: "It's crazy. How can we all be here when we're the Justice League? We're supposed to be up there helping."

Captain Nootra: "Don't make me mad, Flash. You know very well that Thor and I don't belong to the same team as this guy. Spider-Man neither."

Batman: "I understand you have issues with me, but now's not the time. It's incredible how you won't give me a break even when the world is falling apart."

Spider-Man: "What won't you see in Nootra? The mightiest heroes are here settling domestic stuffs when the galaxy faces a threat."

Superman: "Don't worry, Spidey; it's because we have a champion up there. In this fight, Goku is in the front line and it's his duty to deliver us. You gain this experience only when you live in comradeship. You don't force yourself to do everything; you trust your comrades because you know

who is right for a specific task. Goku alone can defeat Broly. We assist him by giving him our energy."

Batman: "I'll go check and ensure everyone follows the instructions. It's better than standing here listening to your pathetic comments."

Captain Nootra: "Nice attempt to escape, bats. How about staying here while I go check that instead?"

Batman: "Look Cap; this is my idea. Find yours."

Thor: "Stop it, you two. I won't hear you fighting each other again. Even children behave better than you. Save your energy for Goku."

Superman: "It's true some citizens aren't doing it right. We have to direct them. Let's all go check it together."

Captain Nootra: "You thought you would get rid of us, batty?"

Batman: "Superman, keep your partner away from me."

It was in a different mood that other citizens and heroes performed the hands-holding exercise.

Human Torch: "I'm so unlucky. Why should it be this creepy green guy standing next to me? It's in such moments that I miss Ben; though The Thing's hand may not be the softest thing in the world to hold."

Raphael: "Spare me the dishonour. No way I'm holding hands with the spoiled kid."

Human Torch: "You call me a kid? Let me remind you, Rafa that I'm older than you."

Raphael: "Rafa? You're crossing a line here, Torch. I'm already a master ninja, but you're immature. Grow up sometimes, little Johnny."

Human Torch: "You, a master; my foot! I guess how hot-tempered your students could be. Whereas I'm a cool guy and everyone wants to hang out with me."

Raphael: "How I wish I had been spared this ordeal of bearing you, Torch. Goku owes me one after this humiliating experience."

Hawkeye: "Hey buddy, you don't have to endure Johnny all on your own. I'm here to balance things up."

Hawkeye came with his daughter and the child gave Johnny Storm no respite.

Human Torch: "Archer, let it be clear; your daughter is your burden and she stays on your shoulders, not mine. Rain, my hair isn't a toy; stop pinching my nose, Rain; Rain.... Stop pressing my neck. Hawkeye, get her off me or I'm really going to flame on."

Raphael: "Well done, Clint. Your little brat is treating the spoiled kid well."

Meanwhile the other Turtles had some odd company in their midst.

Leonardo: "Raph was complaining about his case? Guess who's standing next to me."

Donatello: "No way, Leo; the Shredder! Man, I wouldn't like to be in your shoes."

April O'Neil: "That's what it means to be in bad company."

Shredder: "You think I enjoy this? Wait till I get my hands on you."

Casey Jones: "You're holding his hand right there, shred head."

Donatello: "Leo, now that you and Shredder are the closest friends in the world, try teaching him some ninja principles with that psychological approach of yours, and find out why he's this way."

Michelangelo: "Maybe it'll work for once. Shredder may have had a difficult childhood. Perhaps mama wasn't there for her adorable little boy."

Casey Jones: "Adorable little boy, the Shredder? Mikey, it's in bad taste. I'll bet my shoes he was a pain in the neck as a kid. Good mama noticed it early enough and threw him out before he brought disgrace on the family."

April O'Neil: "Casey, no one would have those worn out shoes of yours even if they were given for nothing."

Shredder: "You guys lie; I wasn't a nuisance as a kid. I used to wash my hands before eating anything. Mama wouldn't tolerate any disobedience."

Michelangelo: "What a pitiful childhood! The Shredder was maltreated when he was a child. Leo, after establishing the reason for his constant derangements, you could be his advocate and see into his rehabilitation."

Leonardo: "Oruku Saki, when will you stop trying to capture dinosaurs and breaking into agencies? Aren't you tired of playing these things at your age?"

Shredder: "You don't even know how old I am, Leonardo."

Casey Jones: "The last time I checked, he was over a hundred. And that was a long time ago."

Donatello: "Raph is missing something playing with Rain there. Now we know everything about the Shredder."

Shredder: "You Turtles know nothing. You can laugh now, but when you see me rise as leader of Nootra, you'll only have your eyes to cry."

Leonardo: "Only in your dreams, Shredder; resign yourself to that. With the number of superheroes in the city, there's no chance it's happening."

There were mixed reactions among Nootra's Wings' football players. While some were having a good time holding people's hands, others found it the most difficult thing in the world to do.

Papan: "I love it. The galaxy should be in danger often so we can shake hands with everybody. Guys, look for me over there."

Cesare: "Forget it, Benjamin. I'm not holding anybody's hand."

Eric: "Well, someone will be ashamed of not taking part in saving Nootra and Cybertron."

Cesare: "Don't put me in your category, Eric. You know very well I'm better than you in everything, especially in a football field."

Eric: "It's still to be proven. Here comes Captain Nootra. He'll make you listen to reason."

Captain Nootra came to the footballers and asked Cesare to respect the orders.

Captain Nootra: “Kid, hold your friends’ hands and be at one with them for this noble cause we’ve been made participants.”

Cesare: “Number one: I’m not a kid; number two: they’re not my friends and number three: I’m not afraid of you, costume man. Remember what my shot did to you? I can as well repeat it. It’ll take you to hospital now that the super nuts man isn’t with you.”

Captain Nootra: “Listen to me carefully, Cesare; if you don’t hold your friends’ hands in the next ten seconds, I’ll hold you in custody for a while and you can say goodbye to your football career.”

Cesare: “Are you threatening me? If you want to go that road, Cap, be my guest. Remember, I know your secret identity. I can show it to everyone if you insist. Besides, I have enormous energy reserve, more than that champion of yours, and it can take down that Broly you’re so much afraid of. What if I used it on you, Captain?”

Captain Nootra: “What impertinence! Who raised this kid? I promise you, Cesare you’re going back to the Academy to be taught good manners. It’s alarming to have citizens, especially kids, who speak rudely to their elders.”

Ach: “Cesare, don’t you ever tire of playing the fool? You stand no chance against Captain Nootra.”

Voltz: “Forgive him for this madness, Cap. You can’t blame him; sometimes it’s uncontrollable.”

Benjamin: “Cesare will now apologize for these remarks, which were out of place. Do it, Cesare or you’ll lose your place on the team.”

Yann: “Only fools refuse to admit they were wrong. You want to be a fool or what?”

Cesare walked dejectedly to Captain Nootra and apologized.

Cesare: “Captain Nootra, I’m sorry for speaking disrespectfully to you. Please, don’t send me back to the Academy. I promise to be a good citizen.”

His peers were taken aback on hearing him say those words. It wasn’t like Cesare to apologize to Captain Nootra

or to anybody else for that matter. It was the oddest thing they had seen him do and they couldn't bear him in that state. Even Captain Nootra was sorry for driving him to such an extent. He quickly sought to restore the confidence of the proud footballer.

Captain Nootra: "Apology rejected for there was no offence. I wasn't serious, champion. Forgive me for pushing you to be another person instead of yourself. You did sound odd talking and looking abashed like that. I prefer you as you are, but don't overstep the limits. The secret identity is sacred in Nootra and citizens are responsible for keeping it to themselves if they come to know a hero's identity. Cheer up, big guy; I give you my word you won't go back to the Academy. On second thoughts, your usual tone reminds me of someone I know very well. Give me your hand, hero."

Captain Nootra took Cesare's left hand and Yann took his right. Benjamin, Eric, Ach, Voltz and those around followed, and holding each other's hands, they released their energy and directed it to Son Goku. In another place, some people were complaining about the mission.

Mario: "I don't like giving my energy to anyone. The last time I did, I was so weakened I couldn't eat anything. Mom cooked my favourite dish and though I was famished, I had no strength to eat."

Wally: "This is just great. Did you have to talk about eating just now? Now I'm really getting hungry. You mean we won't be able to eat after this?"

Shades: "Mario is bluffing. Have you ever seen him weakened when it comes to eating good food?"

Jeremy: "Save your breath and execute the orders."

Mario: "Quit playing the big guys, Jeremy. You're not Superman to tell me what to do."

Denver lifted up Mario and placed him on his shoulders.

Wally: "Way to go, Denver. You may not be Superman, but you're a big dinosaur after all."

During this time, Spider-Man found himself among some people he didn't want to be around for that particular mission.

Spider-Man: "This guy tried to finish me off and now I'm supposed to hold his hand?"

Kingpin:⁴⁹ "What won't you do for the good cause, Spidey?"

Spider-Man: "Nootra is asking too much. They should have tried something else."

Invisible Woman: "Those big three are angels when it comes to affection. They're already on it."

Invisible Woman was referring to Devastator, Omega Supreme and Shockwave who obediently carried out the task.

Spider-Man: "These guys can be saints if you only give them a chance. I don't know what Megatron did for them to be so loyal to him."

Flash: "They're like the Autobots. It appears they were created with a deep sense of loyalty towards what they recognize as belonging to."

Batman: "You two should copy their example instead of talking around."

Flash: "And what about you?"

Batman: "Flash, I'm here to put order. Everybody must follow directions."

Invisible Woman: "Looking around, I see everyone doing so, except you."

Flash took Batman's hand and he couldn't shy away from it.

Batman: "At least, it's better than holding the hand of Cap and hearing endless crap in my ears."

Flash: "As an ancient one, bats, you should put your pride aside and understand him. He's guardian of the city, but

⁴⁹ . April O'Neil and Arnold Bernid 'Casey' Jones appear in *TMNT*. The Kingpin (Wilson Fisk), a super villain of Marvel Comics, was created by Stan Lee and John Romita, Sr. He first appears in *The Amazing Spider-Man* #50 (July 1967).

you continue to treat him like a child. He only wants you to recognize what he's become for this civilization."

Batman: "But he's a child. How can he take things so lightly?"

Flash: "Your opposite, huh? Yet you'll have to admit his style works. He protects the city like his predecessors, and with a plus. His charisma enlivens us all though it's visible he himself hasn't fully recovered from those losses."

Batman: "The losses. Trust me, Flash; I know it very well."

Flash: "I think he's fighting you more often lately to free himself from the conflict within. That's also your responsibility."

Batman: "You don't know it better than I do. I'll do with his whims, but as for his recklessness regarding the city's security, I won't let him have his way."

Spider-Man walked away from Kingpin for he could no longer stand his sarcastic tone. He came and forced himself between Batman and Terrax, and took their hands. Then the voice of the Man of Steel was heard throughout Nootra, officially pronouncing the effecting of the mission.

Superman: "Nootra is ready for the energy bequeathing. All as one, we entrust our energy to our champion and he wins our battle. Goku, keep Nootra, Cybertron and the galaxy safe. We're counting on you."

The people released their energy and it went to the object they released it for. After this exercise, the galaxy had to witness the second round of the historic Battle of Agnam. Broly was still savouring his apparent victory when Goku's body started to revive thanks to the energy he received from the people. He became stronger each second and his sons, Gohan and Goten, were there to assist him. Son Goku leapt to his feet and the heroes were relieved to see their champion operational again.

Son Goku: "Thank you for trusting me, my friends. I promise I won't disappoint you. I'm casting out Broly for good this time."

Son Goku was fully replenished when he stood up for the second time as the champion of his people. Due to the

dense concentration of energy flowing through him, he instantly changed into Super Saiyan 4. He was bigger and stronger. His hair was black and longer than in its normal shape. His upper outfit changed to red while the lower turned golden. A red shadow trim was around his golden eyes and over his eyelids. His aura was fire-like, gleaming with sparkles. And Son Goku glittered like a supernova.

Although altogether glamorous, Son Goku recognized his radiance wasn't of his own merits. He owed it to all the beings in Nootra, Agnam, Cybertron and their environs. That indescribable energy came from the people, animals, plants, objects and elements of the galaxy. It was because they unanimously responded to one call that he was in possession of such mighty force. It was the love of the universe and its will to absolutely triumph over evil. And that determined the outcome of the Battle of Agnam.

Strengthened by the energy he received from companions, citizens and allies, Son Goku was ready for the second round of his combat against the redoubtable Broly. It was a fearsome fight. Son Goku had transformed into the various stages of Saiyan power transformation until he attained Level 4. On the other hand, his rival was the Legendary Super Saiyan who appeared once in a thousand years and whose powers surpassed all modes of Saiyan power transformations.

That millennium in Galaxy Brave of Dimension 2C519 where Ryan, Noah, Zach and Alan ventured, Broly was in possession of the legendary Saiyan power. Yet though he was mighty, though his energy was limitless, though his strength was unrivalled, though his power was immeasurable, although Broly was Legendary Super Saiyan, strongest man of his epoch, the will of the people acting on Son Goku prevailed over him.

After exchanging blows with Broly for a while, Son Goku resorted to using his lethal technique, the Genki Dama.⁵⁰ The Genki Dama consisted of accumulating the weight of the energy of the galaxy in a single sphere and using it against the enemy. Son Goku began by creating a small energy wave in which he inflated all the energy he

⁵⁰ Genki Dama and Instant Movement are techniques in *DBZ*.

received. As he saturated the wave with power, it expanded and enlarged to the size of an asteroid. Thus the sphere was formed and shone like a thousand stars through the dense concentration of energy.

On seeing what was preparing, Broly tried to stop Son Goku. He rushed straight on to smite him yet before he touched him, Goku used Instant Movement to disappear with the sphere. He materialized on another spot and continued as such; disappearing and appearing from place to place until he accumulated the necessary amount of energy to form the sphere.

Broly subsequently got insight into his movements and trailed him. He unexpectedly appeared before him and landed endless punches on his body. Son Goku remained indifferent to his blows, as if they didn't affect him. This passivity of his adversary left Broly wondering. He resorted to creating several energy waves, which he shot at Goku. These attacks, however, were hasty and not weighty enough to deal a scratch on the hero. It appeared Goku was covered with Vibranium for no attack seemed to disturb him.

When the sphere reached its utmost form, Son Goku made sure his companions and allies were well covered. Then he threw it at Broly. He subsequently formed another energy wave with the Kamehameha and used it to push the sphere towards Broly. Broly saw the incoming mass and fled. But Goku controlled the sphere with the Kamehameha and so kept his opponent targeted. Broly passed at full speed through the many little spatial bodies surrounding Cybertron and Son Goku followed him with the same velocity.

A change of attitude suddenly all occurred in Broly. Acknowledging himself as the strongest man in the galaxy, he never ran away from battle. Thinking nobody could rival him and that the energy of the galaxy was nothing compared to Legendary Super Saiyan, Broly stopped and turned around to face his adversary. He created an energy field with the capacity to shield him against frontal attacks. It was the same shield he raised when he was a baby, which saved him and his father when they were thrown

overboard. In this confidence, Broly stood his ground and took the Genki Dama head-on.

The sphere of Son Goku, with its magnitude of energy, hit Broly right on target. It exploded on him and pushed him from space to the ground of Agnam. The continuous blast breached the energy shield and the avalanche struck the body of the proud warrior. Broly was severely blasted by the weight of the energy of the galaxy until he lost all his powers. The sphere subsided after being completely emptied of its energy. A weakened Broly emerged in the aftermath of this spectacular offensive with no power left to carry his body. When he collapsed on the surface of Agnam, that was the fall of the mighty.

As Broly lay enfeebled on the surface of Agnam, Goku's face changed and turned impassive. He became glacial and wore an expressionless visage. His pupils disappeared and his eyes were all white. Rock debris revolved around his body as he descended to the surface of Agnam. He moved towards Broly to exterminate him. When his companions perceived what was on his mind, they could only hope for their friend.

Pikkoro: "I've never seen him like this. This is another man and not the Goku I know."

Tenshinhan: "If he does it, he'll regret it. And I can't tell the remorse he'll live with his whole life."

Vegeta: "His look resembles mine years ago. I never thought that benevolent heart could be as darkened as I see it now."

Magneto: "If he kills Broly, that will be the end of Goku the Nootran. He'll turn into the dark side."

Storm: "Are there only these two extremes: eliminate or be eliminated?"

Apocalypse: "You worry too much, Nootrans. If he turns evil, I'll gladly recruit him. Being a villain isn't as bad as you may think."

Megatron: "Allow the kid to finish the job. Or does anyone know how to stop Broly without unalive him?"

Wolverine: "I totally agree with you for once, bub."

Cyclops: "Spider-Man says with great power comes great responsibility. Let Goku do what he thinks best."

Optimus Prime: "We have to trust him, people; he's our champion."

J'onn J'onzz (via receiver): "We've entrusted our powers and the fate of our galaxy to him. When someone has such responsibility, he alone can see through what the rest can't see and make the best judgement of the situation. Let's believe he's doing the right thing."

Superman (via receiver): "I was in the same position once and I understand the gravity. I must confess I'm glad I didn't do it. Now, it isn't me. Goku, we're with you whatever you decide to do."

Captain Nootra (via receiver): "Son Goku, I endorse whatever choice you make and I assume full responsibility for any action you take. Only, may Agape help us all on this one."

Son Goku walked up to Broly while this one lay weakened on the surface of Agnam. On reaching him, he lifted himself above the ground and floated over the fallen warrior. Then Son Goku addressed his nemesis.

Son Goku: "Broly, you've threatened the people for the last time. Nootra doesn't want the enemy killed, but I'm obliged to go against that will today because your very existence is a menace to the galaxy. You've threatened us these three times and if it hadn't been for benevolence, this part of the world would have been wiped out long ago."

"I don't know how you attained such a power level, but it's over today. How beautiful it would have been if you had used your strength for the good cause! You've been endowed with a wonderful wealth of energy, which not even a galaxy can supply. You stand unrivalled, unmatched, unlimited in combat. Yes, you're the strongest Legendary Super Saiyan the world has ever seen. Saiyans can be proud their race produced such a formidable fighter who stands unsurpassed in the art of combat. Once or twice, I had this pleasant dream of seeing you and me fight side by side. Broly, you're a phenomenon and I'd be lying if I said I never envied you."

‘But the madness of revenge, the poisonous venom, blinded you and you used this fantastic strength for nothing profitable. Instead of helping people with this energy reserve, you used it for destruction. You’re a king among Saiyans and would have reigned if you had helped a people with your gift. But you wasted your life trying to harm me and my family. I’m sorry, but I’ll have to eliminate you for good and you’ll never hurt the people I love again.”

When Son Goku finished this farewell speech to Broly, he lifted up his hand, which illuminated from the concentration of energy. When he brought it down to deal Broly the knockout, Galactus intervened and swallowed the Legendary Super Saiyan.

Galactus: “I won’t allow you to destroy such a limitless energy reserve. Broly will live in me and supply me with the energy of a galaxy.”

Son Goku stared furiously at Galactus, and then shouted.

Son Goku: “You don’t know the power of Broly, Galactus. He’ll destroy you someday and come back to threaten the universe. We must close this chapter once and for all.”

Galactus: “I refuse. I helped you and you owe me one, and this is it. You’ll be surprised to see me do more. I spare your friends and break the barrier so my Silver Surfer can cross to his home galaxy. Even my other heralds are free. I no longer need them now that I have a wealth of energy in Broly. I also dissociate myself from Megatron’s goals. You won’t be in my way, Goku; dare you?”

Galactus eyed Son Goku and Goku glared at him in return. While his eyes were on Galactus, Goku noticed someone standing in one of Galactus’ eyes. It was Broly in his normal form. He was restored after bathing in the energy flowing in Galactus’ armour. He stood there looking at Son Goku; then turned his gaze to the other fighters present on Agnam. Son Goku got ready, thinking a third round was inevitable.

Surprisingly, when Broly transformed into Legendary Super Saiyan, his eyes produced irises. They were blue like the view of Earth from space, and beautiful like Nootra

from Agnam. He said something to Galactus and this one turned around and flew away from the fighters. Galactus and Broly left together to the remotest parts of the galaxy. As they were going, Broly turned and looked at Son Goku with those sparkling eyes full of life. Son Goku stood there staring at them. He didn't budge as the two drifted away from his sight.

17 BEING A HERO

There was jubilation in Nootra and Cybertron when Goku defeated Broly in the Battle of Agnam. Son Goku emerged victorious thanks to the people, animals, vegetation, objects and elements of his world. Galactus interfered in the battle and prevented Nootra's champion from exterminating Broly. He swallowed the Legendary Super Saiyan and vowed to not threaten Cybertron if Broly lived in him and satisfied his hunger for energy. Son Goku was overtaken yet couldn't stop the cosmic entity from recruiting his new herald who was an inexhaustible energy reserve in himself. Galactus left with Broly and this marked the end of the many combats fought on Agnam. Nootra, Cybertron and the galaxy had overcome so heroes and citizens celebrated with great joy. Villains and heroes having fought alongside, it was time for allies to congratulate one another and settle other matters.

Optimus Prime: "That was a good safe, Megatron; though looking back, you're the one who started all this. Still, this battle will be a landmark in our civilization. Friends and foes fought side by side and triumphed."

Megatron: "Optimus, I never thought I could resort to such a thing as that which just happened, but when you're a robot, there are chances you'll witness strange occurrences in this world."

Optimus Prime: "What about your troops posted in the environs?"

Megatron: "I called back the Decepticons from Cybertron, the secret bases and the city."

Optimus Prime: "Excellent. Today, we were allies and it worked pretty well. Why not forget our disagreements and work together?"

Megatron: "Don't get too excited about this, Prime. You're correct when you talk of today. I did what I did only for my own interests and the Decepticons'. I have ambition, which I couldn't let that kid tamper with. Be sure to hear from us soon; very soon. Decepticons and allies, retreat!"

Optimus Prime: “Goodbye, old buddy. Yet know that if Decepticons come against Nootra again, the Autobots will be there to stop you.”

The Decepticons Soundwave and Astrotrain, along with their allies, Magneto and Apocalypse, followed Megatron and left. When the villains were gone, the heroes were left alone on the surface of Agnam. Noah finally had the opportunity to approach Vegeta. Noah was fond of the prince of Saiyans and now that she was standing close to him, nothing could separate her from her hero. She was in high spirits and although aware of Vegeta’s unfriendliness, she ran and fell into his arms.

Noah: “Vegeta at last. How I longed to meet you!”

Noah’s temperament embarrassed Vegeta, as her affectionate gesture took him completely unawares. It was unusual for anyone to display their affection to him in that manner, and so he rebuked her.

Vegeta: “How impudent! What do you think you’re doing? Get off me.”

Instead of depressing, Noah was rather pleased with Vegeta’s reaction for she did not expect any other response from the real Vegeta.

Noah: “I knew you’d say something like that. This proves you’re my Vegeta and no impostor. You look aggressive on the outside, but deep within you is the heart of the prince that you are.”

Vegeta: “Who’s this kid, Trunks? I think I forbade you from giving information about me to people.”

Trunks: “Dad, this is Noah of Earth. She and her friends are so keen on us in Nootra. They knew each one of us even before arriving here.”

Vegeta: “I didn’t ask for those details, but take her away from me.”

Noah: “This is awesome! It’s Vegeta as I know him.”

No matter how hard he tried, Vegeta couldn’t drive Noah away. During this time, Goten took Ryan and Zach to Son Goku who was sitting on the ground of Agnam. Emotions were running high as it would be the first time

these two would talk face-to-face with their hero. Goten introduced them to his father and Zach and Ryan met Son Goku.

Zach: "We're privileged among the people of Earth to meet you, Son Goku. Many love you on our planet."

Son Goku: "I'm flattered people of another dimension know me."

Ryan: "Noah, Alan, Zach and I are happy to be here and see all of you, superheroes. Many would give much for that."

Goten: "And you gave so much, Ryan; even your faith."

Son Goku: "Wow! Is it by faith you're here? I've always wanted to meet people who transgress laws, which restrict them from realizing their full potential. Child, will you teach me some of your tricks one of these days?"

Ryan: "I'm honoured the galaxy's champion admires me, a child of Earth. But Son Goku, these are no tricks as you know. I simply believe Agape and things happen to me and my friends."

Son Goku: "Don't say 'simply' because faith in Agape is the most powerful virtue a man has. It's true there are stories about me across the universe, but if you look carefully, you'll notice I'm like everybody. I'm just someone who uses the gift he received exhaustively. And you know what, child; I love doing what I'm doing, and I'm sure there are people like me on Earth. You and we aren't different. Everyone just has to identify the area they thrive best and use its produce to save their people. The gift you've received, Ryan is this faith, which brought you and your friends to this dimension. Few people have that."

Son Goku's companions had come to him and they followed what he and the Earthlings were saying. Some didn't hesitate to butt in.

Vegeta: "These Earthlings spend their time looking for people far away. Don't they have heroes and villains like we have here in Nootra?"

Son Goku: "Vegeta, it's a good thing to meet people from around the world. Me, I'd love to meet every single person

in the universe. I've met billions already yet this is the first time I meet people of Earth. There are trillions of trillions of people in the world and I want to meet all of them. We can learn a lot from people from different backgrounds. It'll increase our knowledge and we'll be able to live our best in the world."

Vegeta: "There's nothing an inferior people can teach me. Saiyans are the strongest race there is. There's no need meeting other people if they can't make you stronger."

Noah: "You're my favourite among Nootra's superheroes, Vegeta."

Son Goku: "Did somebody hear the Earthlings call us superheroes or is it just me who's moved by it? That's cool, huh? I've never come across people outside of this galaxy who appreciate us to the point of calling us like our citizens do - superheroes. It's true Earth is fond of us."

Ryan: "Earth calls you superheroes because in our illustrations, you're depicted as beings with supernatural abilities, which we don't have. And you use your superhuman strength to rescue people in danger."

Tenshinhan: "You don't need supernatural strength to rescue people. Nootra is unique with its supernatural abilities; that's certain. Yet what about people who don't have them? I think every planet should adapt to its situation and bring out the best in them and give it to the world."

Yamcha: "Being a hero is simply being at the service of people. You don't need super powers for that. Anyone can be a hero if they have a heart to serve others."

Pikkoro: "Man is never contented with what is within reach. He always sees something lacking and thinks that's what will make him happy. I have a message for planet Earth. When you get back home, tell your people, especially my fans, to stop looking for superheroes without, but to find the hero within them."

Tenshinhan: "This is what we do in Nootra. Not all of us have super powers. There are citizens without super powers and citizens with super powers. Yet all are heroes because we rescue one another, like today. We're all

responsible for Goku's victory since we all contributed to it. Anytime you offer the least help to someone, you make them feel better, and that makes you a hero."

Chaozu: "Tenshinhan is right."

Dende: "You're a hero, Zach. You're brave and bold; and your speech was uplifting. It strengthened all of us and motivated even the least willing among us to unite and win as one. It's like the entire universe heard you and approved what you said."

Zach scratched his head for that compliment made to him in the presence of everybody disturbed him. He wasn't used to being praised, and so he answered timidly.

Zach: "Well, I just said anything. I'm not good at talking before people, you know."

Son Goku: "Zach, that speech gave me the courage to rise and fight for my friends. I don't know if I would have done so without your faith. Those inspired utterances revived us all. They couldn't be just mere words; I think they were spirits that infilled us. They activated our faith and gave us the strength to still believe, irrespective of what our eyes could see.

'Never forget this, children; whatever word of love, of faith you offer people, you stir hope in them and this keeps them confident, and eventually changes their situation and saves them. That's what being a hero is all about. Zach, if it wasn't for your words, the galaxy might be lost by now. Not everyone possesses the powers I have, but power in itself is vain. I have superhuman strength yet the faith of my friends and their trust in me determine my victory. You may call me your hero but to me, it's all of you my heroes. I believe in destiny and now I know you came to this dimension to prevent the destruction of our world. Zach, you're a true superhero."

Son Goku stood up, walked up to Zach and offered his hand.

Son Goku: "Thank you, Zachary. As from this day on, you're my friend. And you, standing as their representative, so are the people of Earth."

Zach took his hand and they pressed each other's hands warmly.

Zach: "The pleasure is mine, Mr. Goku. I'm happy to have assisted you. I'm proud to be your friend and I know many are on Earth. There's something I desire from you."

Son Goku: "Anything, buddy."

Zach: "I want to challenge you to a duel."

Dende: "Are you sure about that, Zach? You think you can beat Son Goku?"

Zach: "Once I stop believing, I stop progressing. I came here to challenge the strongest man in my universe. Broly has skill, energy and power, but I don't consider him the strongest because these elements have no value in themselves, as Son Goku said. It's only when you use them to serve people that you become truly powerful, thereby giving meaning to these assets. They exist to serve man, otherwise, they're useless."

Son Goku: "Well Zach, you don't cease to impress me. I like the spirit animating you. No doubt superheroes are on Earth."

Zach: "So what's your response, sir?"

Son Goku: "Duel accepted. I'd be delighted to see what the Earth is made of. And if you're good, I'll stop there someday and challenge a few of your fighters."

Zach and the Earthlings were on top of the world because of this momentous exchange with Son Goku the Saiyan. When Son Goku finished with the Earthlings, he turned to his sons. He stroked Goten's hair as he talked with them.

Son Goku: "Gohan, Goten, I'm proud of you. You do well when you fight for your friends and the universe as you did today."

Gohan: "You taught us to do so, dad."

Goten: "We're proud to have a father like you. You're the best dad in the whole world."

Son Goku: "If only that was true, my champion. I haven't always been there for both of you. I've been busy fighting

for the galaxy and have neglected my duties as a father. I can never be grateful enough to your mother for bringing you up alone. What would I do without my hero? She gave me adorable children like you, Gohan and you, my clone. Come closer, sons."

Son Goku hugged his sons and promised them something.

Son Goku: "When I recover from these wounds, we'll spend more time together, and I'll train you and your new friends. I can feel a lot of energy in the two of them."

These remarks of Son Goku about them elated Ryan and Zach. They knocked their chests against each other and jumped up and down in anticipation. Trunks, Goten and Noah joined them in celebration.

Yamcha: "Goku, here's a Senzu Bean for you."

Son Goku: "Thanks pal. You and Puar did a great job. Chaozu, you too were fantastic. Everybody did wonderfully well. It's unfortunate Krilin isn't here. I would like to be surrounded by all of my companions after a battle like this."

Gohan: "Krilin remained in the city to protect it against our enemies who eventually turned out to be our allies."

Tenshinhan: "Goku, maybe you should start training the kids now that you've recovered."

This provoked a loud laugh from all of them. Meanwhile, Alan was exploring the galaxy with Silver Surfer. Sitting on the board of this one, the young Earthling and his rider crossed many planets until they came to some remotest parts of the galaxy.

Alan: "Thrilling! This place is 'wow', Surfer. It's so vast; nothing my mind could ever conceive. There are myriads of stars all over us. If this is how you spend your day, silver head, I envy you."

Silver Surfer: "We've passed the sixteenth planet of our galaxy. If we go further, we'll cross to the third galaxy. We mustn't loiter here; I sense my former master nearby."

Alan: "I'm very glad for you, Surfer. You'll go back home at long last."

Silver Surfer: "Yes; but I'm afraid I'm another man now. I've been gone for so long and have done so much evil. Will Shalla-Bal receive me?"

Alan: "Sure, she will. Don't let worries and fears discourage you, Silver. What you did today clears you of what you've ever done. And now that every man is in Agape, our mistakes aren't counted against us."

Silver Surfer: "You mean Agape has forgiven me for all the evil I did?"

Alan: "You got me right, Norrin. Not only has He forgiven you, He also has accepted you. He brought a new age once He put on the glorified man - Grace. In Grace, we don't need to do anything for Him to accept us. He first accepted us by including us in Him. He has all of us in Him and we have Him in us. Once our eyes are opened to see His loveliness and the perfection of His work, we know we're exactly like Him and partake of everything He is and of everything He has in the Beloved."

Silver Surfer: "I like that. You do have treasures on Earth. I want to know Him."

Alan: "Here's a book, which speaks of Him. But you need revelation to know Him. I offer it to you. You can start reading from the Epistles."

Silver Surfer: "Thanks Al. I promise to visit you on Earth after I've been to my galaxy."

Alan: "Is that true? All my peers will respect me when they know I'm friends with silver head."

Silver Surfer and Alan travelled back to Agnam and met the X-Men who were sorting out a few last things before everyone could return home. Cyclops was in communication with NSF Central Headquarters.

Cyclops: "J'onnn, send the Reparation team to clean up the site. The area between Cybertron and Nootra must be scanned meticulously and cleared of anything harmful."

J'onnn J'onzz (via receiver): "The Relay and Reparation teams will be there in a few minutes to take over. You're all expected in Nootra for a deserving rest. Well done, agents."

Wolverine: "That's it; I'm done with space. Next time you have something up here, count me out of your list."

Jean Grey: "It was a battle you only see once in a century. I feel we've become even closer to each other through this. In the end, it was Galactus, who saved the day. What would have happened if Goku had killed Broly? I don't think he would be playing with his sons as he's doing now."

Storm: "Sometimes, these villains are truly our partners. We're all part of each other because we live in this world. I was expecting this miracle; little did I know it would come by Galactus. In times like this, I'm proud to belong to this world. This is when I love being a fighter - when the battle is won not just by me alone, but by everyone in my world. These villains are also a gift to us. Today, I'm proud of them."

Archangel: "We've lived a historic moment with people of planet Earth by our side. Silver Surfer is now free and can return to his home galaxy. And what I saw in Broly's eyes tells me something has changed in him. This battle is another lesson to teach our children and make them proud of their civilization. Trust me; I'm an angel with visions of the future. I know what I'm talking about."

Wolverine: "There you go, heaping speeches on speeches; it can't be helped from now on. And when we return to Nootra, it'll be worse. Only the kid from Earth made an interesting one."

Cyclops: "It's hard to keep quiet after writing such a beautiful chapter in the history of our city, Wolverine."

Wolverine: "Yeah, Summers; it was landmarking. Now I'm done waiting for the Relay team. Nobody looks for me 'cause I'm out of here."

Wolverine boarded Teleport Unlimited and teleported himself far away. The rest of the fighters remained on Agnam until the Relay and Reparation teams arrived. These replaced them and began to clean up the cosmic battlefield. Meanwhile, the champions of the galaxy were teleported to the city of Nootra.

18 DELIGHTFUL EXCHANGES

It was a memorable day for Nootra and the galaxy. Their forces triumphed over the menace, which had threatened them. The people came together and with the living beings, animals and vegetation, they drove out the enemy. The elements as well as the galaxy's energy forces joined them in overcoming the evil. This victory was outstanding because heroes and villains won together. Galactus made it even more resplendent. By swallowing Broly to be supplied with his energy, he prevented Son Goku from eliminating him. That act would have discoloured the celebration as it would have turned the champion of Nootra into the dark side.

The Agnam crew returned to Nootra and the whole city was in an uprush of joy. All gathered at NSF Central to see the heroes. They cheered Son Goku for his valiant deed and pressed around to touch him. Knowing that his victory was the combined efforts of his fellow citizens and not a personal feat, Son Goku tried to shy away from their cheers, but it was impossible to stop the excited crowd.

Son Goku: "I didn't do anything, people. You're the ones who gave me the strength."

Papan was walking close to Son Goku. He had managed somehow to enter headquarters a few minutes before the arrival of the main actors. Now he was coming out with the space heroes as if he had been with them on Agnam. He paraded in their midst and did everything to be noticed by the thousands of people around.

Papan: "Didn't you hear the big guy? He doesn't need that. You should rather cheer me. I sacrificed a match to look for him. I deserve an ovation. Thanks for the shot. I love you all. We did it guys; we defeated Broly."

That was just like Papan! Green Lantern, J'onnn J'onzz and Krilin escorted Son Goku and the heroes as they walked along the extensive courtyard of NSF Central.

Green Lantern: "Goku, will you stop being modest for a while? We know we gave you our energy, but you're the champion who won our battle. These people only want to express their gratitude."

Son Goku: "But the truth is I wouldn't have done anything if everybody hadn't come together. You were all as heroic as me in that combat. Before you vanish to your quarters, J'onn, brief me on how we drove out the enemy. I heard they sent troops even to the heart of the city."

J'onn J'onzz: "Yes, but first of all, I congratulate all of you present. You've worked tirelessly from the time we heard about the invasion until this magical moment of celebration. Captain Nootra and agents were at the different locations of the city that were attacked. They protected civilians and none was badly injured. Green Lantern, you and your teams were irreproachable at L4. The base suffered only minor damage though it was the huge Menasor and the devastating Insecticons that assaulted it. The other two bases were also well defended and Team Agnam was excellent. I personally followed your actions and I'm proud to testify of your prowess. Well done, agents."

Krilin: "Goku, the whole band will meet at Bulma's place this evening. She's holding a banquet in your honour with lots of food."

Son Goku: "Bulma knows me all too well; I can't avoid any of her traps. Tell me, Krilin; haven't you grown taller since last time?"

Krilin: "Stop that, Goku; it isn't funny. You know I don't take jokes concerning my height."

Son Goku: "But it's not a joke. Where's Pikkoro to confirm it?"

Krilin: "Are you sure? Wow! It's true unusual things did happen today. But don't call Pikkoro. He'll look down on it as if it's nothing. Big guys like him don't appreciate the progress small guys like us make."

Son Goku: "Don't say that, buddy. This must be established. (Shouts) Pikkoro, Pikkoro, will you come over here for a minute?"

Krilin: "He can't hear you."

Son Goku: "Don't tell me he's meditating while standing there like that?"

While citizens were admiring Son Goku and his peers, Mario, Wally, Jeremy, Shades and Denver came up to the Earthlings. Noah ran to Denver and he took her in his arms and licked her incessantly.

Wally: “Hey guys, did you really watch the fight of the century live?”

The Earthlings told Wally and his comrades everything that happened on Agnam. As they were conversing on NSF premises, Batman approached them.

Shades: “Watch out guys; the bat is close.”

Batman: “Don’t fear, children; I’m here to thank you for your help. You were fantastic, Terrestrials. I intend to apologize for the incident of the other day.”

Mario: “Well, well; Batman is appreciative and intends to apologize, but hasn’t done so yet. That’s rare. Still, I’m not convinced of his sincerity. No, no, bats; you won’t get away with that so easily.”

Jeremy: “Yeah. You must prove that you’re sincere, Batman. You ought to do some difficult thing to be forgiven. The Earthlings and Saiyans were almost eliminated in the Frightful Forest because of you.”

Shades: “If you want to be forgiven, Dark Knight, make us ride in the Batmobile.”⁵¹

Wally: “Well done, Shades. How about that, Batman?”

Batman: “That’s asking a lot, children. Besides, I can’t take all of you in; just look at Denver.”

Shades: “Preference should be given to the one who asked it first.”

The others jeered at Shades.

Jeremy: “And he didn’t do anything. Shades, what did you do to save Nootra?”

Shades: “I trusted in the faith of Agape and remained still. That was all I needed to do to save our galaxy. And you know what, Jeremy; it worked.”

⁵¹ The Batmobile is the automobile of DC Comics’ superhero Batman. It made its first appearance in *Detective Comics* #27 (May 1939).

Batman: "Okay, tomorrow is day off for everybody. I promise to take you in the Batmobile."

The children shouted and tapped each other's hands for securing such great advantage for themselves.

Zach: "It's going to be awesome riding the Batmobile."

Noah: "One last thing before you're completely forgiven, Batman. Will you listen to Alan here who has something important to tell you?"

Alan: "Noah, what's this set-up all about?"

Ryan: "Be a man, pal. Tell the guy all the stuff you used to reproach him for back at home."

Alan: "I have nothing to tell him. He's none of my favourites."

Zach: "Then how come you get mad at him every episode?"

Noah: "Guys, let's leave them alone."

The rest of the band left and Alan was alone with Batman.

Batman: "Well kid, I owe you one. What is it you want to tell me?"

Far from being intimidated by the calibre of the world's greatest detective, Alan hit words in his face.

Alan: "Why do you always play the solitary knight and keep yourself away from your peers? And what do you mean by that serious look on the mask?"

Batman wasn't surprised for he was used to being attacked on personal issues. He replied sarcastically.

Batman: "Oh; I never thought my character could upset anyone."

Alan: "Seriously, Batman; what I think is that your character can't leave any of your colleagues cold."

Batman: "Listen kid; you can't change people. That's how I am. What do you want me to do?"

Alan: "I want to see you friendlier. Life hasn't always been kind to you, Mr. Wayne but you're not the only one who's been in that mess. You must get over it. I know that's how

you are but think about your friends. They want to spend more time with you."

Batman: "What if I don't want to spend time with them; have you thought about that? There are many people in the world you can make friends with. I just want to do my job and be left alone. Besides, some of them can't stand my presence."

Alan: "I don't mean to be disrespectful; only sincere. Your friends can't stand you because of your gravity. You give the impression of being sufficient and wanting nobody. Some of them really need you, but you're just being impassive. It would be great if you stopped being a part-timer and blessed them with the gift of yourself. This has nothing to do with the fact that you protect them, Batman; it's you they want."

'Possession or any such things count for little; it's people our true wealth. Assets serve their function only when we use them to beautify our lives, those of our relations and all who come our way. Batman, we don't only want you to be our colleague, protector and benefactor, but much more; we want you to be our friend. It's true there are many people in the world we can make friends with, but it's you we know and you we want."

Batman took these remarks about his character quietly.

Batman (to himself): "This is just my luck; always running into kids who won't give me a break."

After digesting Alan's words in a moment of silence, Batman replied.

Batman: "I'm flattered you care so much about me."

Alan: "What do you think? Millions care about you on Earth."

Batman: "I don't mean millions; I mean you. How come a cool one like you cares?"

Alan: "At least I swallowed everything and said what irked me inside. Why not do the same, sir?"

Batman: "I'll tell you a secret, Alan and it's between you and me. You see, there are times I would love to be with my peers and have a good time with them. Let's take the

case of Captain Nootra for like you, he's always mad at me because of my ways. He's a young man I watched grow up and I saw become this city's celebrated hero. I personally witnessed his passion and zeal for this civilization. He's an exemplary figure to us that's why he's our captain. Sometimes, I'd like to tell him how much I admire him, but I don't. Hey, I'm Batman and Batman doesn't show his feelings openly, right?"

Alan: "Of course Batman is weird, emotionless, sinister and everything in that category. But Batman mustn't stick to his reputation, but be what he is on the inside. A man is free only when he lives to not impress others; when he does what he wants without waiting for people's approval. A song on Earth tells us to be ourselves no matter what people say.

"That's incomplete to me and I'd like to add this. In being yourself, don't forget that people need you. They don't need you so that you should give them something or do anything for them; they need you because they want you to be part of them. This is because they love you and you can't do anything about it. You either accept it or reject it. Yet I know that love is good and every man needs love; even you, Batman. That's how Agape fathered us; He loved us and we accepted His love. So now we're His sons."

Alan had touched a point, which the Caped Champion held at heart.

Batman: "There's more to you than meets the eye, kid. I'm impressed by all that you said, and that you said them boldly. Nobody would dare say these things to my face, except Cap; but that one is a case."

Alan: "You may be a weird superhero, but you don't scare me."

Batman: "You know what, Alan; I like your style. I'll make an effort to be friendlier with people because of you. You should be proud of having changed something in Batman. Hit here, pal."

Alan hit Batman's fist and this one offered him his super comm.

Batman: "Have this, kid. It's a special tech originating from Mr. Fantastic's early researches. What you see here is the combination of a hidden technology of Tony Stark and of Pikkoro's mind repository. I put it together in one of Capsule Corporation's laboratories. Because of what you said, I choose to trust you with it. With this communicator, I'll get to you wherever you are and I won't lose track of my friends again."

Alan: "Whoa! This is some communicator! Thanks, batty."

Alan received the communicator and was proud to belong to Batman's inner circle.

Batman: "You're bold and have no fear when it comes to the people you love. As a sage, I esteem such values in people. Your faith is worth praising, Alan."

Alan: "I just use the little I have and the much Ryan possesses to change my world. When you walk with people like Ryan, you unconsciously benefit from their incredible faith. He's a gift to me. It's because he taught me to trust in the faith of Agape that today I'm with you, Iron Man, Silver Surfer and all of my superheroes."

Batman: "I think I understand what you mean. Through association, we can share in the blessings of others. That's why you want me to be with people so we can be blessings to one another."

Alan: "If you want, that's why."

Batman: "I thought I knew everything, but we must be humble to listen to everyone for even a child can teach us something we didn't know. Yet what I observed from your report is that the information Earth received on Batman isn't up to date. Much of what you said is obsolete and no longer true of me."

Alan: "You mean you've changed, like Iron Man?"

Batman: "Something happened twenty-one years ago, which changed everything about me. The Batman you described isn't this one."

Alan: "Tell me what happened, Batman. What have you become?"

Batman smiled at the little Earthling without, however, answering his question yet glad to know he still had exclusivity of his new life, which remained a mystery to Alan. The following day was a festival in Nootra with a grand party hosted for all the city's inhabitants. The main celebration was at Goku's place, a village with a stream, located on the East Side of Nootra. People gathered there in the afternoon and the place was crowded with citizens and superheroes, and all were having fun.

Shows were being held in different locations. Autobots grouped somewhere for a free demonstration of their transforming powers. Iron Man and War Machine exhibited their armours. Batman took many kids in his Batmobile. Superman took some to the sky and Spider-Man swung with others. When these things were going on, Ryan and Noah were lucky to meet the Ninja Turtles before they disappeared in the shadows.

Donatello: "Hey bros look; the extra-Nootrans we rescued the other day who saved our city in return. Thanks, guys."

Ryan: "Thanks too for helping us out the other day. Your moves against the Shredder were awesome. I'd like to learn a few of them."

Raphael: "Ninjas have hidden codes. If you're not in our circle, you don't belong. So a simple answer for you, dude: you can't learn our techniques."

Noah: "It's wonderful you hang around in the open, Turtles. You used to live in the city sewers."

Michelangelo: "In the sewers? Shish. You people must be out of your mind thinking the Turtles live in the sewers."

Leonardo: "That's a misrepresentation of the Ninja Turtles on the part of Earth."

Michelangelo: "How do you enjoy the beauties of the city living in the sewers?"

Noah: "It's because there are no giant talking turtles on Earth. People are scared of you even though you help them."

Raphael: “That script makes no sense. You don’t help people who are scared of you. You can truly help people only when they trust you.”

Ryan: “But you understand their reaction. That’s why you keep helping them and stick to the shadows so they don’t see your faces. Then you shout Cowabunga.”⁵²

The four Turtles started in surprise and stared at Ryan.

Donatello: “Hey guys, he’s spoken the magic word.”

Raphael: “It must be an error. How can this punk know our password?”

Leonardo: “Raph, there are no two ways about it; we must treat them accordingly.”

Noah: “What do you mean treat us accordingly?”

Donatello: “Anyone who says the magic word enters into a friendship with us and they receive our masks. This implies they belong to our circle and can be taught the ninja techniques.”

Ryan: “You’d better change your password; everybody knows it on Earth.”

Leonardo: “Mikey, get the ribbons and tie them around their heads.”

The ceremony took place and Ryan and Noah were included in the friendship of the Ninja Turtles.

Donatello: “Since you have my mask, Ryan, I’ll teach you some moves my ninja staff alone can produce.”

Ryan: “Wow, Don. I can’t wait to learn them. When do we start, sensei?”

Michelangelo: “Noah, have you tasted our pizzas yet? Nootra’s bakeries do the best pizzas in the entire galaxy. Galactus stopped here once to devour them when the great hunger was upon him.”

Noah: “I can’t wait to be treated to them, Mikey. But I haven’t seen you wield your nunchakus yet. Some say you’re the strongest Turtle though Leo and Raph play the tough guys.”

⁵² Cowabunga is a form of cry/shout in *TMNT*.

Raphael: "No way am I getting to Earth. They compare us to each other as if we were rivals."

Leonardo: "My bro is good as all of us are since the Ninja Turtles are a family and we're unbeatable because we always work together."

On the other side of the stream, Nootra's Wings' football players were spending the day together.

Cesare: "Why do you keep hanging around me, Yann?"

Yann: "So you don't ruin the party."

Cesare: "I lost the match of the year because of you. You haven't paid for that yet so get ready for the worst."

Yann: "Look on the bright side of the thing: Goku won the fight of the century. The match of the year is nothing compared to that."

Cesare: "It was obvious he would win; he always wins. But Ben and Eric make me lose each time. I'll quit this team for good some day."

Yann: "Let's see if you can say that to their face."

Benjamin and the rest of the Nootra's Wings' footballers came to Cesare to settle their differences after the incident of the final.

Benjamin: "I'm sorry, Cesare. I know how much that match meant to you. Yet what we did as a team was grandiose. As captain, I promise we'll never withdraw from a match if it isn't important."

Cesare: "What do you mean if it isn't important? Every game is important to me. I have a Nindo, which says I win every match I play."

Eric: "Hey guys, this is a fantastic site for a game. I bet I've surpassed you by far, Cesare."

Papan: "Here's a football; see if you can take it from me."

Yann: "No problemo, Papan."

Roberto: "Lucas, use your artistic skills to take the ball from Yann."

Benjamin: "Aren't you afraid of being scolded by Super-Cap playing here on the village lawn?"

Lucas: "Today is day off for everybody. They can't stop us."

Ach: "I didn't think so, Lucas. Here they come."

Captain Nootra and Superman landed in the midst of Nootra's Wings' football players. Surprisingly, they didn't rebuke them as they expected. They used some unusual vocabulary instead.

Captain Nootra: "Children, I personally thank you for the sacrifice you made to save our galaxy."

Superman: "Nootra will always be grateful to its Wings. You successfully carried out the mission, which was most crucial for our victory."

But the superheroes' speech didn't impress Cesare.

Cesare: "Cut me some slack, costume men. I have nothing to do with your gratitude."

Captain Nootra: "I'm relieved to hear you sound Cesare again. I prefer you like this even if it's irritating sometimes. Still, this is the Cesare I know and this is the Cesare I want."

Cesare: "Don't care, Cap as long as you don't stop me from playing football."

Captain Nootra: "I'm sorry, champion. It's wicked to threaten people with what hurts them the most. It was the first and last time I did it, I promise. And this lesson shall be taught at the Academy. Are we pals again?"

Cesare: "We've never been pals, but if you mean our relationship as it was before the episode, don't worry about that."

Captain Nootra offered his hand and the moment Cesare took it, he let his cape roll behind his back and released a refreshing wind, which carried Cesare and his teammates to the sky. Then he created an air orb with blissful winds and various rainbows, which enveloped the children. The younglings were amazed. It was like they had been transported to a heavenly realm.

Captain Nootra went on to create a water-like surface in the shape of a big ball in which he dropped the children. The footballers sank into the ball as if sinking into the

depths of the sea and it bounced them up and down several times before disappearing. It took Captain Nootra such tricks to lighten any tense atmosphere though nothing pleased this set of children more than a football game.

Superman: "It was our informal way of showing you our gratitude."

Benjamin: "We appreciate your kindness, Super-Cap. You too did a great job out there."

Eric: "It was great all right, but there's another thing we want. Can we play a game here?"

Ach: "Don't need their permission. You have no right to stop us today, Super-Nootra."

Bruno: "We gave our energy to Goku. We too are the heroes of Nootra."

Papan: "The costume men are good at fighting but can they control a football? Look how I bounce a hundred without breaking a sweat."

Lucas: "I bet Superman can't score a goal even if the goal had no keeper."

Bruno: "What a shame! How can they be superheroes when they can't shoot a football?"

Benjamin: "We don't envy you or Son Goku when it comes to football. This is our domain and here, we thrive always."

Superman: "I didn't say the contrary, citizens. You do drive us crazy with your wonderful passes. I never miss an opportunity to watch your matches."

Voltz: "I know one who always comes to see us play; the archer. But his daughter is a little brat. Last time she bit my finger because I refused to sign her picture."

Lucas: "Voltz, you didn't understand how to deal with Rain. Just give her whatever she wants and run for your life."

Benjamin: "What are you talking about? Rain is my number one fan and we often play together on the city pitches. She's already a good footballer at her age."

Roberto: "Nootra only breeds football geniuses. At this rate, we're going to be the champions of the universe."

Eric: “The Earthlings said they play football on Earth too, and they have good players. I’d love to see their style. Cap, will you talk to Optimus Prime and J’onn J’onzz about an inter-dimensional football championship?”

Captain Nootra: “I promise you nothing, but I’ll tell them.”

Cesare: “Instead of playing, you’re there talking. Now that I have the ball, nobody will take it from me.”

Eric: “It’s you who say so, Cesare.”

Cesare: “Get out of my way, Eric. I said the ball was mine.”

Papan: “Admire the wonders of an artist. No one, I mean nobody can wield a football like Papan the magnificent.”

Lucas: “You want to bet? I’m the acrobat here and when I appear, I take my place.”

Ach: “You’re only throwing empty words, Lucas. Watch me instead.”

Benjamin: “I’m Benjamin, captain and top striker of Nootra’s Wings. No one can outdo me in football.”

Cesare: “Who told you the title of captain meant anything? I’m the best football player in Nootra and I’ll prove it to you right now.”

Voltz: “This area is the goal. I know all of your techniques. None of you will score a goal to me.”

Yann: “You want to bet? Try catching my shot if you can.”

Roberto: “Come on guys; let’s finish our final here.”

Bruno: “And we’re winning it for sure this time.”

Benjamin: “Nootra’s Wings, keep Nootra safe.”

As the football players of Nootra’s Wings were having their long-desired football round, Captain Nootra and Superman stood there watching, overflowed with a multitude of gratitude.

Captain Nootra: “These children; they make me love this job.”

Superman: "It's not a job as long as we're doing it for them. They boost our faith to keep up the good fight. I'll do everything to make them happy."

Captain Nootra: "I love this city and civilization. Even our combats only make the beauty of this land graceful. Lovely is the only word to describe Nootra."

Superman: "We will never lose our zeal for this city. We uphold this civilization by protecting our citizens. As we do, other people see its goodness and embrace our values. Captain, we're an emblem of love and justice to the world."

Captain Nootra: "We have a bright future, Superman. These kids are our legacy and treasure. Nootra, your heroes will always be there for you, and your children will enjoy the abundance you've freely offered them."

Superman: "Captain."

Captain Nootra: "Yes, Superman."

Superman: "It's strange; I feel like I'm with Alex. He and I used to say these same things a hundred years ago. You're conforming, I see."

Captain Nootra looked at his partner and smiled. Then both continued to watch the children.

19 THE ANSWER TO RYAN'S QUEST

It was a happy holiday in Nootra. The people were celebrating their victory over the forces of evil, which had threatened their world. Festivities were going on all across the city. The main celebration was held at Goku's place, a small village in eastern Nootra. Citizens came there in their number and all were delighted with that wonderful occasion of spending the day with their heroes. Son Goku hadn't forgotten his promise to Zach. He took him aside and they slipped out of the sight of everyone to get to a lonely place for their duel. On the way, they came across Pikkoro who had retired to a quieter zone for his meditation. He was floating cross-legged in the air under a tree by the stream. Son Goku lingered there a little to pester him.

Son Goku: "Still asleep, Pikkoro?"

Pikkoro: "Asleep? I'm not like you who spend your time on contemptible activities when you're not fighting. It's obvious I'm meditating."

Son Goku: "How do you do that - idling all day long and focusing under this racket?"

Pikkoro: "If you keep the silence within, the din without won't reach you."

Zach: "Excuse me, Mr. Pikkoro; do you know Earth?"

Pikkoro: "There are few things in this world I don't know."

Son Goku: "Trust Pikkoro on that, Zach; he's a master of knowledge. He receives revelation of invisible realities through his constant meditations."

Pikkoro: "There is a world beyond the natural. If you allow your spirit to take control of your mind, you'll see truths the senses can't perceive. And as your mind grows in the spirit, you'll come to the knowledge of space, time, matter and the invisible. Planet Earth is in Galaxy Chosen of Dimension 1T234, one of the biggest systems of galaxies there is. It's the ground on which the feet of Agape walked when He made Himself visible. Its people are the chosen, not because of their deeds, but because of the good

pleasure of Agape who chose them even before He formed the worlds.”

Zach: “But we don’t know Nootra on Earth. Our technologies are highly advanced and our governments have launched countless missions to seek life in the universe; but we’ve never detected your presence.”

Pikkoro: “Science without faith is vain, faith without justice is useless and justice without love is evil. What were the real intentions of your governments? How can they come to us when they haven’t helped their own people? It’s a pity that with all these advancements you mentioned, your world hasn’t yet attained the basic stage every human planetary society must be: food, drink, shelter, justice and freedom for all humanity.”

Professor Charles Xavier was standing not far from there. He heard them and their discussion interested him. He walked to them and put in his contribution.

Charles Xavier: “Before talking of meeting other life forms in the universe, make sure you meet everyone’s needs back at home. That’s the only way to make contact with the worlds.”

Son Goku: “Earth is the chosen and I’m sure your riches in human and natural terms are inestimable. Zach, I entrust you with the mission of making your planet the best place for its entire people.”

Zach: “It’s not going to be easy, but I’ll do my best.”

Charles Xavier: “Your best can never be enough, child. Goku’s best couldn’t save the galaxy. Never forget the most important gift Agape has given us - people. Agape intervenes in the affairs of man through men and women who come our way.”

Pikkoro: “An impressive energy flows through your veins, young one. Train and meditate daily and you’ll become stronger. Meditation will show you the essence of life and you’ll be fully convinced of it. Then you’ll know your mission and the purpose of your existence. After you’ve identified what you’re called to do specifically, you’ll be able to ally your strength with the good cause and win the

fight, which in every case is to make the world a good place for each human, starting with yourself."

Son Goku: "Let's leave Pikkoro and Charles to their talk; they'll never stop if we stay here. We have a duel at hand. So Zach, are you ready?"

Zach: "All my life, sir."

Son Goku and Zach went their way, leaving Pikkoro and Charles Xavier behind. It was another atmosphere elsewhere. Noah was having a good time clinging to Vegeta. When Denver saw Noah and Vegeta together, he hesitated to approach her. But as he kept looking at them, he realized Noah was really happy to be with the unsociable Saiyan. Denver took heart and walked up to them. He carried both Vegeta and Noah and licked them incessantly. Then he threw them up several times and caught them again. This game amused Vegeta a lot.

Vegeta (laughs): "I thought you didn't like me, Denver."

Son Goten, Trunks and their mothers, Chichi and Bulma,⁵³ marvelled at Vegeta's completely changed mood.

Goten: "Wow! This is the first time I see your dad laugh so much. I'm certain he enjoys the fun though he does everything to hide it."

Trunks: "Noah did well to push him. She's doing him more good than he wants to admit."

Bulma: "Give me the camcorder, Chichi. I'll immortalize this moment."

Shishi: "Where is Goku; and Gohan? They have once again escaped from my vigilance. Goku is a real case, but I haven't taken photos of my Gohan yet. Goten, go get your brother."

Goten: "Sorry, mom but he's left. He asked me to tell you and dad that he was going to Seth Island to continue his picnic with Krilin, Yamcha and Puar."

Chichi was furious upon hearing this and she scolded Goten for not telling her when she could still prevent it. Meanwhile, Denver's companions came there and they

⁵³ Chichi and Bulma appear in *DBZ*.

were surprised to see their dinosaur playing with the Saiyan.

Mario: "What's Denver doing with Vegeta? He's going to hurt him."

Wally: "Vegeta, if you try anything on Denver, you'll answer for it to these fists."

Flash: "Relax, dudes; Vegeta means Denver no harm. See how they're getting along?"

The children watched and indeed, Vegeta was being friendly towards Denver and Noah.

Jeremy: "It's true they seem to be having fun."

Shades: "How is that possible? Vegeta is an anti-hero. He never plays with kids. In fact, he never deals kindly with anybody."

Spider-Man: "Maybe he's changed; who knows? Strange things did happen during the battle. Can you believe Autobots and Decepticons fought as one? Having seen Omega Supreme smile at the Constructicons, I'm opened to anything."

More heroes came to join in the Green Dino's party.

Human Torch: "Somebody wants to add to their number? Sorry, it wasn't a question. I'll force myself in. Don't need anybody's permission anyway."

Jeremy: "Are you sure Vegeta won't hurt us?"

Flash: "No way. The guy's totally on cloud nine. Let's join them."

Spider-Man: "Trunks, Goten, come in."

Rain: "Dad, dad, can I join them? Say yes, say yes, say yes."

Hawkeye: "Yes, you can but promise me you won't do anything bad. If anyone complains about you, I won't take you to any more football matches. Got me?"

Spider-Man, Human Torch, The Flash and Rain joined Denver, Noah and Vegeta in the free juggling bash the green dinosaur was offering. After hesitating for a while, Mario, Wally, Jeremy and Shades added to their number, as well as Trunks and Goten. As the group increased, so

also did the fun. Bulma and Chichi filmed it all with their camcorders. Rahan later arrived and Noah left the group and ran to his arms. Vegeta was finally relieved yet before he sneaked out of the party, Denver caught him and licked him affectionately.

News of Son Goku's duel with Zach soon reached the crowd and many gathered to watch the exchange. Far from being intimidated by the Saiyan, Zach launched the offensive. He attacked Goku with his most powerful shot and struck his chest with his palms. This first blow floored the hero. Goku got up the next moment and transformed into Super Saiyan and the two exchanged endless blows. Zach bent down and stretched out his legs to hit Son Goku, but this one jumped and avoided it. Looking up, Zach saw Goku coming down straight on him with a punch. But the Saiyan withdrew his fist and didn't hit the boy.

Zach got on his wings at that moment and from the air, set up a remarkable technique. He blew energy-filled air from his body to his hands and mixed it with energy from the outside surrounding. The whole was an invisible energy ball. During this time, Goku was firing tiny energy waves at the Earthling from the ground. Zach evaded them, and when the Saiyan seemed distracted, he shot the invisible orb. The energy ball hit Goku head-on, but it wasn't powerful enough to ground him.

Zach had drained much of his energy by this time, but Goku used Instant Movement and appeared behind him in a flash. He neutralized his hands and threatened him with an energy wave, forcing Zach to surrender. Although he lost to the Saiyan, Zach's dream was fulfilled when he fought the strongest man in the world. The two landed on the ground and nodded to each other to mark the end of their confrontation. The onlookers clapped for the show and encouraged the young fighter.

Dende: "Zach, I know only few people who can resist Son Goku like that."

Mr. Fantastic: "That was pretty cool, kid. You'll knock him out in a few years."

Zach: "Do you really mean it, sir?"

Invisible Woman: “You’re more resourceful than some superheroes. Guess what; we’re recruiting. Maybe you can enlist for the Fantastic 5.”

It was at that moment, after the duel of Zach and Son Goku, when all of them were together, that Ryan, putting aside every sense of complex, posed his question in the hearing of all. He knew that was the golden opportunity to get an answer to his long quest.

Ryan: “Hey Nootra, citizens and superheroes, there’s something I want to know. Can anyone tell me where to find Agape?”

Everyone left what they were doing, turned towards him, and paid attention to what was raised. Citizens and superheroes came closer to hear what was going to be said on the subject, certain they would be enlightened in the process. It was Son Goku who began to testify.

Son Goku: “Agape gave me the heart and the strength to fight for the good cause. He vested these powers in me when He brought me to this world and I’m using them for the good of His people.”

Noah: “This is beautiful; Son Goku talks about Agape!”

Samba: “If anyone is inquisitive and sincere, they’ll know Him and His power. He created the universe and its multiverses. His presence, beauty and goodness are visible in His works.”

Vegeta: “When I was still ignorant, I sought to gain His power, but His omnipotence can only be experienced when a man comes to know Him.”

Alan: “On Earth He walked and on Nootra He is known. Won-der-ful!”

Bulma: “This is because He’s wonderful, Alan. If any man gets to know Him, there’s no other result except the love for Him. The thing is not everyone knows Him as He is.”

Archangel: “I once thought He was imposing His will on me until I understood that our trust in Him is the key. Once we take Him at His word, believing that He means what He says when He says He loves us, we become free. I came to the conclusion that pride, which is to persist in what we

sincerely hold as true instead of trusting His love, is the root of the evil in the world."

Mr. Fantastic: "Man is here to accomplish the design of Agape. His design is that we do what we love. He knows what we love and assigns us just that. A man finds fulfilment when he does what he was born to do. Every man should first determine what he has been called to do. I can testify that the very thing a man enjoys doing is his work."

Zach: "Mr. Pikkoro, you've been to countless places. Have you come across Him somewhere?"

Pikkoro: "No need to look for Him far away. I find Him each day in my meditation. Who do you think I'm communing with all the time? I meant His Spirit when I spoke to you of the spirit. He renews my mind continually and so my powers increase and I fight to eradicate evil from the world."

Ryan: "Hey people, maybe you didn't get me right. I was talking of meeting Him in person. This is the most important thing to me. To see Him is my dream."

Shishi: "Son, may I ask why you want to see Him?"

Ryan: "I want to ask Him to save everyone. I don't understand why He allows people to suffer when He's almighty. There's evil in the world; hatred, wickedness, wars, disasters. These things leave millions on their knees. There are third world countries, inequalities among people, famines, racism, tribalism, restrictions, sickness, suffering, disillusionment in the lives of many. The rich and powerful trample on the poor and needy. Oppressors and money-grabbers devour little ones. There's an evil system, which ensures that everything answers to money, which the majority don't have. How can some paper determine the welfare of a man? It's supposed to be at the service of people, not people at its mercy. I hate that system for it denigrates man by creating a society where he loses his value to things.

'Now He's almighty. He can remove every wickedness from the heart of man. He can eradicate evil in the blink of an eye. He can restore the people and land by the power of

His Word. He can reverse any evil system and bring a world where people's dreams aren't shattered because of some paper or whatsoever. I want to know why He allows so much suffering when He has all the powers to end it."

Vegeta: "This is the stupidest thing I've ever heard. I knew I was wasting my time listening to kids. Are you too foolish to not understand the way of things?"

Alan: "But these are the most sensitive questions people ask on Earth."

Tenshinhan: "Then Earth may have misunderstood the message."

Chaozu: "Ohohoh. How could that be? The message was supposed to be clearly presented to all."

Noah: "Please, tell us what it is that we don't know."

J'onn J'onzz: "Agape is wisdom itself. I came to have profound reverence for Him when I understood His way. He made us like Him by giving us the power and freedom to build our world the way we want it. We're not only His creation; we're also His collaborators. I know of none who gives as much honour to his people as He does."

Green Lantern: "Agape has done everything for the good of all. He left nothing undone. Man is responsible for the good and evil in the world. If there's oppression and misery, we're the cause and we're also the ones to solve these problems."

Tarzan: "The dignity of a man resides in his free will. Agape granted us the honour of being His equals and for that to be, He had to give us free will. Our free will is proof that He respects us and treats us as equals. Sadly, some have used their free will to bring chaos to the world."

Batman: "His trust in us is what makes man priceless in the cosmos. Although some missed the mark, as Tarzan said, many more have proved themselves by choosing good and rejecting evil. This happens when a man's integrity prevails over the numerous possibilities his free will offers. It's like Alan told me yesterday; a man becomes totally free when he does the right thing from his own heart without being forced to.

‘Agape Himself has free will. It would be insulting to have us like Him and deprive us of free will. He’s the Almighty because He chooses good instead of evil. As in our case, evil isn’t hidden from Him, but He uses His free will to choose good though being under no constraints, except love, which is no constraint to Him since it’s His nature. So He is just beyond all controversy. And we, who are like Him, use our free will to choose the good, thus expressing our true nature. Isn’t it so, Wolverine?’

Wolverine: “Allow me to have it my own way, bats. I’ve always wanted to say this, but you bubs were too incredulous to pay attention. Now that the kid has raised the issue, you’d better be attentive for it’s the only time you’ll hear it from me. Man was born to do good. Evil is an alien nature. It’s like love. Every man wants to be loved and would lie if he said the contrary. Our nature, which is His nature, is love and love produces good. That’s how He made us: to love and to do good; to be loved and to be done good. If a man experiences these things, I can assure you he has found happiness.

‘We have free will and we use it to do what our nature tells us: we do good. To do good is to serve people instead of harming them. You see, kid; the reason why Agape gave us the power to build our world ourselves is because we’re able to do what is good. Our doing good originates from our love. It’s impossible for love to produce anything other than good. He is love, we are love. He does good, we do good. As He is, so are we. What He has, that’s our inheritance.

‘Our mission is to be the perfect man Agape foreknew. Such a man takes pleasure in serving others, as Agape does. Service is to give people what they want. Agape is pleased to serve us and He serves us by giving us all we want. And everything we will ever want, He placed in us in His omniscience. We’re in this world to bring forth the good things that are in us and make ourselves and everyone happy.”

Batman: “That’s deep. I didn’t know someone like you could come out with something this profound; without the usual coarseness, I mean.”

Jean Grey: “Wolverine’s heart is pure, even if he feigns the contrary; just like yours, Batman. But Logan, I thought you were gone for a long time.”

Wolverine: “All I know, Red is that if I wasn’t here, this little one would miss the chance to get something to chew in his life.”

Cyclops: “Ryan, it’s intolerable that people suffer. We all want to see the eradication of evil and the overthrow of any system, which restricts man from attaining happiness. Yet in order not to despair before this manifestation, always keep in mind that humanity as a whole has already triumphed over every suffering, pain or obstacle. Only then will you be able to appreciate every moment of your life.”

Superman: “What Cyclops means is that you won’t save anyone by depressing and lamenting the suffering of the world. It’s sad mankind in totality isn’t fully enjoying what Agape did for us. But you’re not to contribute to the suffering by wailing. Yet by being cheerful, you will have the strength to overcome all adversities. When you don’t let things get you down, that’s when you become a hero. Remember; a hero doesn’t have the luxury of being downed. That would put him in the category of those to be saved. A hero sees all things as already good and considers that what he’s doing is making this good experienced by all.”

Ryan: “But Superman, how do we stop oppressors and catastrophes?”

Rahan: “Child, I think we discussed this. Believe the best for all those-who-walk-on-two-feet and do them good. These are the two things you need to do to change the world. The little things will lead you to the greater and before you notice it, you would have moved mountains. Commit yourself to what you do; be consistent and always believe once you’re persuaded by the truth in Agape that what you’re doing is fair towards those-who-walk-on-two-feet. You’ll bring down any system by keeping on believing and by letting nothing restrict you. Nothing, no one, no contrary system can take away your dream. Disproving every system, which isn’t in line with the well-being of those-who-walk-on-two-feet, is how we save the world.”

Iron Man: “Friend, take it simple like me: do what you’re supposed to do, which is what you love doing, and do it in the best way you can. To summarize in a practical way what my peers said, acknowledge all the good things in you and get all you want, which is right. Desire the best for yourself, for the land and for all humanity, starting with your family.”

Captain Nootra: “It took me a while to understand that saving the world didn’t mean possessing super powers. It’s all about living with honour and living the best of you. Transformation occurs once you get the revelation of Agape and His revolutionary love expressed in His Grace. When you see this, the supernatural is unveiled to you and you walk in it spectacularly, like we do here in Nootra, or better, spiritually, through the renewing of your mind. That’s when you encounter true peace and happiness and can bring the same to the people around you. Bats, tell these kids the fundamental thing, which you haven’t stopped teaching me even now that I’m an adult.”

Batman: “What you should always be conscious of is to know whose you are. When you know that, you’ll know who you are and this will resolve the question of identity, which many are seeking. Your identity is what defines you. A man’s identity is who Agape says he is. This has nothing to do with anything external. It’s not what people say or any world system defines them or places as law before them. If you walk in the knowledge of who you are without letting any opposition dishearten you, even without super abilities, you’ll be unstoppable. Never forget this, children.”

Storm: “It’s evident we’re Agape’s. Yet for this to have any significance, we must know who we are in Him. The knowledge of who He is and what we are in Him is the answer to everything, as Batman said. So if you want to know who you are, get to know who He is for all that He is, you are. It’s from Him we get our identity. Once we know who we are, we walk as conquerors over every system of things.”

Thor: “On my home planet, it is written that any sovereign who loves to the extent of placing the object of his love in the same position as himself will possess almighty power.

It means if you want to be almighty, you must have unconditional love. Unconditional love doesn't depend on anything to be. It demands no performance, merit and there's no way to work for it or earn it. This love accepts the other as they are irrespective of them and endows them with the same quality of being as oneself. This love doesn't tolerate the other, but is pleased to see them at the highest point and benefitting the same privileges oneself enjoys. Any monarch possessing such love shall also acquire supreme power."

Dende: "Wow! This is the first time I'm hearing such a thing. It's absolutely world-shattering."

Jean Grey: "Indeed, Dende. Earthlings, know that since the time Agape walked your world, He embodies every human. Agape is invisible yet by becoming the Man, He can now be seen in every man since all men are included in Him. The greatest error is the failure to recognize the grandeur in man whom Agape has made royalty for His good pleasure."

Tenshinhan: "Agape is the Man by whom all men are defined. He performed all righteousness and gave it to us as gift. Now His righteousness is ours by imputation for as our substitute, everything He did is counted as we having done it. This is what qualifies Him as the unique Saviour of man. By identifying Himself as us, He consequentially made us identify ourselves as Him. Now He and we are one. We're exactly like Him for He is our only life."

Superman: "Man is Agape's representative in the physical world and does things in His stead. Agape operates in this world through us and here we know our value - we're the people He trusts. Although living in a body and a world, which seem to incline towards evil, man can rely on the life of Agape in him to transform everything into good. This is the honour and dignity of man whom Agape made His sons."

Son Goku: "Agape has His own visible human body as we have ours, and an invisible spiritual body. Only after accomplishing the mission will you see Him in His own visible human body. But you can see Him in this world in a man, that is, you and all those-who-walk-on-two-feet, as

Rahan would say. This is how you get illumination and live your destiny. Children, our destiny is to know ourselves as He knows us."

Archangel: "Concerning our mission of transforming everything into good, every man accomplishes it, sometimes unconsciously. We're here to make the world the best place for ourselves and for all peoples. This is what He wants, and so we're certain of victory. Each man has a contribution to make for this grand finale, which is realized on a daily basis. What we're doing each day is all welling up to saving the world."

Invisible Woman: "We have this guarantee, Ryan; we shall all see Him face-to-face. But with the trillions of people in the multiverses, I'll also enjoy seeing Him in each one of them. Yet I know it'll be fulfilling to see Him as He is in His glory."

Ryan: "I wanted to see Him personally and should be disappointed, but it's not the case. Hearing cartoon heroes talk about Him was the least of my expectations yet greater than what I imagined. It's true His ways are unsearchable. He goes ahead of us and marvels us beyond our comprehension. The unprecedented in Him is a good thing to man for I wanted to see Him, but I've seen superheroes instead and they know Him.

'Now I'm patient until the moment to see Him comes. And there's so much to do on Earth. I commit myself to being a hero and making Earth the best place in the world. A word of encouragement, Son Goku, you said, can make us heroes. The one who speaks and the one who receives what is spoken are all heroes. Your answers just produced that in me. From the bottom of my heart, I thank you, my superheroes."

Charles Xavier: "Listen carefully, children and adults. This secret is revealed only to those who are willing to know Agape and who they are in Him. Agape is the one who is pleased to make a man His equal. He is Being and we exist for His good pleasure. He gave us the privilege of sharing in His life in order to enjoy us. This is His motivation for creating all things: His good pleasure. His good pleasure stems from His love. So we're confident

about everything, which pleases Him - it is good towards us.

‘The greatest thing a man has is life and this life is the gift of Agape. Out of Love, Agape created us and didn’t treat us as pawns for that wasn’t the purpose of Him creating man. Such a thing never crossed His mind for love doesn’t do that. Of all the things He made, man is the most beautiful. It isn’t surprising since Agape honoured us to the extent of giving us His own image. This is because He created us to contain Him. We’re the visible expression of He whose nature is invisible.

‘Like expectant parents preparing the coming of their baby with lots of purchasing and furnishing, likewise He created the universe with all its resources for His sons so that we are fully equipped with everything for life when we manifest. When man appeared in the world, Agape fathered us, thereby transferring His very nature to us. It has always been a question of relationship from the beginning. Agape revealed us in this world to be in relationship with Him. This relationship of Father and Son is the meaning, purpose, answer and reason for man.

‘And He did all these things of His good pleasure. Now He enjoys us and is pleased with us. We’re the beneficiaries of His life and like Him, we live to enjoy Him, to enjoy one another and everything in creation. Life is enjoyable and not a burden. If a man experiences it otherwise, he must acquire the knowledge of who Agape is and who he is in Him and agree with His faith to produce whatever he desires so as to enjoy every single day of his life, as Agape enjoys His.”

Then the spirit of Nootra seized its captain and being caught in a trance, he opened his mouth and began to bless the people with Grace.

Captain Nootra: “For this purpose He created man: to share Himself with us. In eternity, Agape enjoys this Father-Son relationship, and it is so beautiful, love shares it with others. He creates man and births us by incorporating us into the Son so that we can share this same relationship He shares with Himself as Father and Son. Life found its essence in the Father-Son relationship,

which is satisfaction, beauty and happiness; and love incorporates as many people as there are into what He is living. I know the human aspect of this being a child greatly loved by my parents.

‘Yet the love with which Agape loves us as sons transcends the human comprehension of the notion. This is the source of fatherhood and sonship. What is love? Love is what Father and Son are living with each other. Here is where we originate, here the foundation of creation. He loved us into existence and included us in His relationship. The dream of Agape now realized is man sharing the love and life that is in the communion of Father and the Son. Through our union with Him, we are by grace what He is by nature. Our part is to do nothing except to know ourselves as Son of the Father.’

Pikkoro finally gave his testimony after these divine utterances.

Pikkoro: “What I have learned in all my travels across galaxies and dimensions is this absolute truth: Agape is good. I’ve met people who thought otherwise yet what people may think can’t change truth. Agape is love - this is His essence. Love is impossible with only one individual for love manifests itself by sharing with someone. Agape is love because He eternally lives by sharing Himself with Himself as Father and Son. Love and evil are mutually exclusive for no evil comes out of love. This is how Agape is good. The one thing, which grieves His heart is when people doubt His sincerity even after He has shown how much He loved them.

‘The advice I give you, children is to trust His love. This is the anchor, guarantee, the assurance you have in this world. The love, which motivated Him to make us His sons is the one thing steadfast and eternal. If you trust that He loves you no matter what you or the universe may think, say, do or not do, then you’ll see all things as they really are. You’ll know He has unconditionally and irrevocably received you, and He is pleased with you because you are in Him and He is in you and you belong to Him for He knows you as the Son and loves you with the love with which He loves Himself.’

20 YOU ARE OUR FRIENDS

Two days after celebrating their victory over enemy forces, some Nootrans were going to Cybertron for an official ceremony. Alan, Noah, Zach and Ryan were the guests of honour. They were representing their planet in an inter-dimensional friendship between Earth and Nootra. NSF agents testified of their bravery as regards the security of Nootra and Cybertron. It was at Headquarters South that Benjamin and his teammates met them.

Benjamin: "Congratulations, dudes; you'll officially become friends of Nootra and Cybertron today."

Papan: "And you didn't need any camouflage for that. Who among you was my clone? Ryan, the believer? Man, what was it like to be me? Cool, not so?"

Ryan: "It's cooler when you're the one playing your role. Batman was really duped like a beginner for it was obvious I wasn't Papan. Who can be Papan except Papan himself?"

Eric: "Jeremy made the mistake of disguising you as the troublemakers we all know of. He should have known they wouldn't have taken it lightly."

Benjamin: "Don't blame Jeremy, Eric. There was only a chance in a hundred for them to fall on the Earthlings. They were supposed to be at the training camp outside the gates. Since we forgot to take the plan of attack our coach drew down for the final, the two decided to leave while we continued to train for fun. And as it happened, they found you."

Papan: "Speak of the troublemakers, here they are now!"

Cesare and Yann entered NSF Headquarters and walked up to their teammates who were with the Earthlings.

Noah: "Zach, make sure you're nice to Cesare."

Zach: "Why not tell him that instead?"

Cesare appeared to be still harbouring resentment towards the Earthlings. He addressed them sarcastically.

Cesare: "What won't you see in this city? Impostors made friends of Nootra!"

He meant that for Zach specifically.

Ryan: "You can just be as stubborn as Broly, Cesare. Are you always going to dwell on what happened and not let go of past grudges?"

Cesare: "I wasn't speaking to you, impostor but if you wish, it's you I'm going to deal with. Well, impostor number one, you think because you did something for Nootra you're a hero? Let me remind you, you found the Saiyan because I intervened."

Zach: "Look Cesare; I don't want any trouble. I admit you and Yann found Gohan for us. I'm sorry about the cloning and please, accept my apology."

Alan (whispers to Ryan and Noah): "Whoa! That sounds odd coming from Zach. He's underacting himself there."

Cesare moved closer to Zach and looked him straight in the eye.

Cesare: "No, no; don't try to get out of this, Zachary. This duel can't be avoided. Instead of fighting the Saiyan, why not try me?"

Lucas: "Take up the challenge, Zach. Having seen you fight Goku and knowing the strength of Cesare, I bet it'll be interesting seeing you fighting each other."

Zach: "Agreed. I too want to see what a footballer can do to a fighter like me."

Yann: "Sunset tomorrow in the training camp outside the West Gates."

Benjamin: "Contact everyone, Eric. I'm taking the bets."

Bruno: "Take mine, Benjamin. I bet on Cesare. No way the Earthling can beat him."

Roberto: "It's because you didn't see him fight Kakarot. Son Goku was in a bad situation and almost knocked out. I bet on Zach."

Ach: "Respect anyone who learns to fly in a day. It won't be that easy for Cesare."

Eric: "It's established. We're all going to meet tomorrow outside the West Gates."

Ryan: "So you all wanted this duel? Why are you so excited about it?"

Papan: "Trust me, faithful one; it'll be spectacular. When Cesare fights, nobody wants to miss it. Don't be surprised if half of Westside turn out to watch it. I'm only sorry for your friend there."

Alan: "You speak as if Zach was an amateur. Zach is a fighter and he'll show you what spirit fighters are made of. He can't lose to a football player. Cesare shouldn't have tried to ride on two roads at the same time."

Voltz: "Nonsense! You don't know Cesare. He was a fighter even before he became a football player. So watch out for your friend, Terrestrial or Cesare is taking him down big time."

Cesare and Zach shook hands to show they both accepted the duel.

Cesare: "Be there, Zachary or you're a runaway."

Zach: "Same to you, Cesare. And don't even dare dream tonight that you might win."

Cesare grinned broadly at Zach, and he called Yann and they went off. After Benjamin and his companions left Headquarters, the four Earthlings came to Airbase 1 where some heroes were waiting to fly to Cybertron. Batman and Captain Nootra were seeing them off from a distance.

Captain Nootra: "Earth is the chosen and it breeds heroic people. I'm glad Nootra has friendship with them through their brave representatives Noah, Alan, Zach and Ryan."

Batman: "Don't put them all in the same box, Captain. These children made contact with us because of their faith and love, the same values, which are the cornerstone of this city. It isn't common to find such people, not even in Nootra."

Captain Nootra: "It's not also common to hear you commend people openly like this."

Batman: "My meeting with Alan opened my eyes to certain things. There's also something I wanted to tell you, Nootra."

Captain Nootra: "Whoa, whoa, whoa. Stop, stop. What got into you? The coming of these Earthlings changed you all or what? First, it was Cesare who sounded odd to me; now you want to tell me something? I won't hear anything apart from the usual crap."

Batman: "I just want to say you're doing a good job. I'm proud of you, Steven."

This open appreciation from Batman thunderstruck Captain Nootra. He marvelled that Batman put aside his rigidity and recognized him to his face. He hadn't done so in many months, ever since he too started to behave obstinately towards him. For Batman to approve him in the midst of his stubbornness was something he knew the Dark Knight came a long way to do. A smile appeared on Captain Nootra's face and betrayed the joy in the heart of the man chosen by his ancestors to be the distinctive figure of their civilization, a unique civilization in the world, which was very close to entering the third cycle of human existence - the perfection of all things. As a little child who was happy when his father praised him, so was Captain Nootra at these words from Batman. He was thankful, and all Nootra with him, for this contact his city made with Earth.

During this time, the Earthlings were with other heroes, preparing to embark.

Noah: "Will Megatron be present at the ceremony?"

Superman: "I'm not sure, kid."

Noah: "I'm sad I couldn't talk to him. He may be a villain, but he remains one of my favourites."

Zach: "Well Noah, everybody is your favourite; first, Denver, then Rahan, after Vegeta, and now Megatron. You'd better determine who your real favourite is."

Noah: "I can't; I love them all. I love you too, Optimus, and you, Superman, Cyclops; I mean all of you. Of course, since you're my heroes."

Optimus Prime: “Thanks for loving me, kid. As to Megatron, he has his own way of seeing things. We’ve been allies for a few astro-hours and it’s like we changed the course of history. I’ve fought many battles yet this one was one of a kind. Though perilous, it was noble. It’s a pity Autobots and Decepticons don’t see things the same way. The Transformers would have been a dream team.”

Superman: “Cheer up, little Earthling. Decepticons will fall into line one day. After all, they too are Nootrans.”

Ratchet: “You remember what the big white-haired Shinobi used to say?”

Cyclops: “Yeah, Ratchet. Jiraiya,⁵⁴ the Toad Sage, prophesied that a day will come when people will understand each other.”

Cyclops’ words caught the Earthlings completely unawares. It dawned on them only then that some people were missing from the adventure. They all exclaimed as one.

Zach, Alan, Ryan, Noah: “Where’s Naruto?”

Skyfire took off with his passengers, Alan, Noah, Zach, Ryan, Denver, Shades, Mario, Wally, Jeremy, Son Goten and Trunks. Optimus Prime, the Autobots and other heroes boarded Omega Supreme while Superman and the rest travelled to Cybertron using their flying abilities.

Goten: “You mean Naruto Uzumaki, the son of Namikaze?”

The Earthlings opened their eyes and mouths wide, eager to know more about him in his home dimension.

Noah: “And Sasuke Uchiha!”

Shades: “Hey, keep your cool. Those guys are no more extraordinary than us.”

Alan: “Are you kidding me? Son Goku and Naruto in the same world and you tell me to keep my cool?”

⁵⁴ Naruto Uzumaki is the protagonist of *Naruto*, a manga series written and illustrated by Masashi Kishimoto, first published by Shueisha (1999) in the 43rd issue of *Weekly Shōnen Jump*. It was adapted into an anime by Studio Pierrot and Aniplex. It premiered across Japan on TV Tokyo and Animax (Oct. 3, 2002). Konoha is the main setting of *Naruto*.

Zach: "Where are they? Why didn't anyone mention them? Why didn't they join in the battle?"

Jeremy: "One question at a time, Zach."

Mario: "There they go again in surprise mode. Does that irk anybody or is it just me? And what's the big deal with the Konoha guys anyway?"

Noah: "Please, tell us about them. Please, please..."

Wally: "It's okay, Noah. Naruto and his friends live in Konoha, a village in the Shinobi World of planet Aegels. Aegels and its Worlds have another order different from that of Nootra. It's the biggest planet of this galaxy and it's located beyond Cybertron, yet a long distance away."

Noah: "Skyfire, will you take us there after the ceremony?"

Skyfire: "You'll have to ask J'onnn first and I doubt he'll refuse you. Remember, you're our guests of honour today."

Silver Surfer was on his board surfing in space alongside Skyfire. He was following the shuttle up close and everything that was said. When he heard of the children's desire to visit Aegels, he intruded through the window.

Silver Surfer: "Leave them to me, Skyfire. I have an appointment with one of their Shinobi, the copy one. If Alan wants to meet the Hokage,⁵⁵ I'd be delighted to take him and his friends there."

Zach: "You mean Naruto is Hokage? That's news."

Mario: "That guy is no smarter than me. He brings back the proud renegade and they make him Hokage. Konoha of the Shinobi World is a real case."

The Earthlings turned to the Saiyans and stared at them, surprised that the two seemed unconcerned by what moved them so passionately.

Alan: "Hey, Goten; why don't you say something?"

Goten: "Say something like what?"

⁵⁵ Jiraiya, Minato Namikaze and Sasuke Uchiha appear in *Naruto*. The Twelve of Konoha refers to the twelve children protagonists of *Naruto*. Shinobi refers to a Ninja. Hokage is Konoha's leader in *Naruto*. Byagukan is an eye technique in *Naruto*.

Ryan: "Do you know Naruto and his friends? Has Naruto ever fought your father? Who's better, Son Goku or Naruto?"

Trunks: "Naruto is a friend and we don't fight him."

Noah: "You mean you know him personally? You're so lucky."

Goten: "We know him just as we know citizens, samurais, benders, knights, ninjas, superheroes and four Earthlings. It's not a hard thing to know people. In the case of the Shinobi, there's an annual inter-planetary tournament for all fighters of the galaxy. Vegeta has always obliged us to participate ever since we were kids. That's how we met the Twelve of Konoha and became friends."

Trunks: "The planets of this galaxy followed the example of Nootra and dissolved barriers among them. They interact with each other, and their representatives meet to discuss matters. Competitions, tournaments, festivals are organized to strengthen the bond between us. In Galaxy Brave, you can meet anyone you want and travel to other planets as you wish. You only need to tell NSF and they'll inform the security of the other planet that you're coming."

Noah: "No frontiers and I guess no fares as well."

Jeremy: "Just ask any superhero to take you there or a Decepticon if he isn't bent on deceiving you."

Skyfire: "Don't trust me on that last point, Jeremy. Decepticons always deceive."

Ryan: "You're far more advanced in human relations and foreign affairs than we are. This civilization is the best in the world."

Mario: "Love looking at people's stuff and never appreciating yours."

Zach: "What do you mean, Mario?"

Shades: "Mario means it was on your planet Agape came, not in Nootra. This implies that Earthians are the chosen and it's from you the universe is saved."

Ryan: "That's what Tarzan said when we were in the forest. How did you come up with that, Shades?"

Mario: "It's from me, Ryan. I bring up an idea, Shades develops it and receives all the honour. Thank you, Mario, you're welcome and don't even mention it."

Noah: "I'll be resting on Denver. Wake me up when we get to Konoha."

Trunks: "Noah? We're going first to Cybertron."

Noah: "Are we obliged to go there first?"

Skyfire: "You want to play a trick on J'onnn? I bet he won't like it."

Jeremy: "Say hello to the strategist when you're there. It's a long time since we met. We used to solve riddles together when we were kids, but he was way more cunning than me and before I knew it, he had become a graded Shinobi."

Mario: "He was also a Shinobi whose faculties derived from his heredity, but you were only a Nootran who didn't and still doesn't know how to fly."

Wally: "I'd like to go to Earth someday. It would be great meeting people who know me and be admired by them, as you four admire us. How do we get there, anyway?"

Zach: "By faith and with a good heart."

Shades: "That's too easy. I have both."

Jeremy: "What about your return? Has Optimus found a way to take you back?"

Alan: "Not yet, Jeremy; but don't mention it for fear of bringing some bad luck. We're not in a haste to go back; not until we meet the master of Byakugan."

Trunks: "I see each of you has a favourite among the Twelve. No wonder; they're gifted and the Hokage did well to make them his councillors."

As the crew travelled in space aboard Skyfire, an incoming meteor approached them at high speed. Skyfire brushed past it and scratched himself. He lost control and transformed from a shuttle into a giant human robot. But his passengers were projected into outer space. Silver Surfer rescued Denver and his companions, but the Earthlings were drawn apart from them.

Silver Surfer: "Hang on, Alan; I'll get you out of there."

While Skyfire sheltered the Green Dino Band, Silver Surfer, Trunks and Goten tried to get to the Earthlings. But they couldn't get any close. It was as if the four children had crossed to another part of space where the rest couldn't reach. No matter how hard the Saiyans and the cosmic human tried, they didn't get hold of them. At that instant, a light shone behind the Earthlings and gradually moved towards them. Then they started fading away. Ryan understood what was happening and showed it to his peers.

Ryan: "Guys, let's get our hands together."

After holding hands and connecting to each other, they shouted to the Nootrans.

Zach: "Friends, give our greetings to everyone and tell them we've been privileged to have met them all. Goten, tell Son Goku that I'll be at the service of the people of my planet. Say goodbye to Dende for me. Thanks for everything, Shades. Tell Cesare to wait until our next visit."

Noah: "I'll never forget you, Denver; you'll always be in my heart. Goodbye, Mario, Wally. Trunks, give your dad and Rahan a hug for me."

Alan: "Trust me, silver head; Shalla-Bal has been waiting for you all this while. Farewell, Jeremy. Tell Iron Man to take care of his family as I take care of mine."

Ryan: "Now I know He's Agape who fulfils our dreams. Guys, we'll be back for we must see Naruto. Skyfire, it was an honour."

Son Goten, Trunks and the rest waved at them as they watched them fade away in overwhelming brightness. Denver and the boys wept for the separation.

Shades: "When I just started to like them! Goodbye, Zach, Ryan, Noah, Alan."

Mario: "I'm sorry for being rude."

Jeremy: "Take our greetings to fans on Earth."

Trunks: "We learned a lot from you. Thanks, buddies."

Silver Surfer: "Alan, I'll read the book you gave me every day. You're my friend."

Goten: “We’ll meet again. Nootra and Earth have made contact. We’re one people from now on.”

Wally: “We’ve always been friends since you knew us even before you came here. We’re the ones who have been blessed by your faith. Farewell for the moment, pals.”

Denver (mimicking): “Bye-bye, Noah. Come back soon.”

Skyfire: “We’ll take your greetings to Captain Nootra, Optimus Prime and all the citizens. You’re friends of Nootra. Earth is welcome here.”

Silver Surfer: “I promised to take you to Konoha so don’t delay, Alan. I’ll be waiting for you.”

Mario: “They came to look for Agape; they enabled us to experience Him instead. We’ve been with the people Agape showed Himself to when He became the Man. I can say I’ve seen Him after meeting Earth, His beloved.”

Jeremy: “Nootra has received divine visitation. We too are chosen because of our encounter with the chosen.”

Trunks: “Agape takes you safe back home, Alan, Zach, Noah, Ryan.”

The moment Alan, Noah, Ryan and Zach held each other’s hands, the bright light that flashed started to shade them progressively until it submerged them. When this was happening, a wide smile was on their faces as they watched and heard their friends shout out words of love to them. They were confident about everything and when they could no longer see them, they closed their eyes in total faith.

EPILOGUE: TRUE BELIEVERS

The next time Alan, Noah, Ryan and Zach opened their eyes, they were on the lawn on the roof of the astronomy base in the city of Aven on Earth. Many people surrounded them and were looking at them bizarrely.

Noah: "Where's Denver, Shades, Wally, Trunks, Goten? Where are my superheroes?"

Ryan: "We're home, Noah. Look; there's your mother."

Alan: "Just one step away from the Mokuton⁵⁶ user. It's so unfortunate."

Noah: "You mean I just missed Sasuke-kun? Nooo..."

Noah's mother fell on her daughter's neck and pressed her to her chest.

Noah's Mother: "It's a miracle we have you back safe and sound. We've looked for you everywhere until Alan's father found you four up here. What have you done, children?"

Full of excitement, Noah unfolded their miraculous adventure to her mother.

Noah: "Mom, what happened to us is incredible. We travelled to a planet called Nootra and found Denver and his companions. They took us to the city where cartoon heroes live and we met Batman. Then Yann and Cesare stopped us and Shredder captured Denver, but the Ninja Turtles came to our rescue. Rahan, Tarzan, Iron Man and all the superheroes were present. Broly attacked them and Son Goku came to save everybody. It was fantastic, mom."

The people looked at her in stupefaction, feeling sorry she might be out of her senses.

Agent 1: "She hasn't recovered yet. You'd better take her to hospital, ma'am."

Noah: "It's true; believe me. Where do you think we've been these many days?"

Agent 1: "It took us not many, but a day and a few hours to find you here."

⁵⁶ Mokuton is a wood release technique in *Naruto*.

Alan: "You mean we haven't been away for days?"

Alan's Father: "You've been lost for about forty-six hours, son. I thought you four had executed your crazy plan of travelling to space, so I went with a crew of rescuers to the site of the detachment but we found no trace of you. We came back and then I had the idea of looking for you up here since I knew you loved staying on the roof. And guess what?"

Ryan: "This is more intriguing guys. We spent a longer time in Nootra."

Zach: "Seven days precisely."

Alan: "Dad, we did take the trip to space onboard RM XIX and we were in the third compartment, which was detached. But that was the best thing that ever happened to us. We were transported to another dimension and met our favourite heroes."

Director: "No, you were not onboard RM XIX. If you were, there's no way you could be here now. The team is still on space station E27 and the crew didn't report taking you along. I'm director of this base and I'm aware of everything that's happening here and in the vicinity. You were not part of RM XIX crew because I didn't put you there. Your dad only made us waste money by taking a group of rescuers to space to look for you when you had been hiding here the whole time."

Zach: "It was a secret intrusion, sir and we didn't expect you to know we were onboard. You need to reason out something, intelligent folks that you are. Number 1: this is an astronomy base and it's under maximum security. How do you explain that we got in here and stayed unnoticed for forty-six hours when you're aware of everything that's happening?"

'Number 2: air vessels patrol this sector every now and then. Why didn't they see us if we've been here the whole time? Number 3: why is it only now and not earlier that Alan's dad got the intuition to look for us here if it's not because Agape told him that when we arrived? Number 4: how come you found us unconscious if it's not because we just arrived from another world?"

Noah: "It's because we were never here but in Nootra, home planet of cartoons."

Alan's Father: "Children, you can't get away with that story. I think I've been telling you this since you were small: cartoons don't exist."

Agent 2: "How irresponsible! You allowed them to get addicted to that stuff and here's the result. That's why I forbade my children from watching those shows, which come from the evil imagination of people's minds."

Director: "Zachary's arguments are logical and sound credible, but what you're saying is completely impossible. Let's even suppose you made the journey to space. Will you do such a hazardous thing only to come up with a story to prove that what you believe is true?"

Ryan: "We're not trying to prove anything to anyone; we're only living our dreams. You may believe us or not but you won't stop us from saying what we know; or else we would be hypocrites just because we fear you wouldn't approve of what we say."

Alan's Father: "Children, your action was daring yet risky. If a space shuttle had to land here anytime, you could have been hurt. You must be responsible. Son, if you wanted to spend a few nights in the astronomy base with your friends, you should have asked me. Did you even think of how worried we could be? Your mother was terribly distressed these two days."

Alan: "I can't believe you of all people won't believe us even after hearing Zach's explanation. Aren't you all rationalists? What then do you answer to that logic? You're the astronomers, those in quest of life in space. But see your reaction when we tell you there are men up there. How do you want to meet people from other worlds if you don't even expect their existence? It's like you're not sincere as regards the grand aspiration of your profession."

Alan's Father: "I'm puzzled but your story is too unlikely that my mind can't take it. Even if I have to believe, then your journey to space would be the most unkind thing you

would have done to us, son. What if you didn't come back? Did you think about that?"

Alan: "Dad, you had to know Ryan was with us. We knew we risked nothing since the faith of Agape in him would save us. And that worked out well for we met our superheroes and Iron Man asked me to take care of you, mom and the two brats."

Lady: "Child, this is your imagination. Superheroes come from people's minds. They're drawn, manipulated and animated by men and computers. They can't exist."

Zach: "People's imaginations bring things into being through the operation of faith. The whole world was once the imagination of Agape and He called it forth into existence through faith. Men have His nature and they do the same."

Noah's Mother: "What you say is hard to believe, Zach. Do you mean man can give life to an inanimate object?"

Ryan: "Not man, madam; Agape. It's the divine power who gives life to all living things. Man's part is to agree with what Agape believes about him. All that Agape believes about Himself, He equally believes about us. The supernatural occurs by the power residing in a man who acknowledges that Agape has received everything on his behalf. Our part is to take from Him what is rightfully ours."

Agent 3: "There is no such thing as the supernatural. We believe what we see. If I can't see it, if I can't hear it, if I can't smell it, if I can't feel it, if I can't touch it, then it doesn't exist."

Zach: "That's your reality, sir and not truth. If you can see something, what's the need believing it? Believing means trusting what human senses and logic can't prove. If you trust facts, that's only what you'll see. Besides, you've heard it already, but you still wouldn't believe."

Noah: "Truth is greater than what you can perceive with your senses. When you believe in love, love is going to be your reality. You believe what you see, we see what we believe. Our faith breaks limitations and takes us to our dreams."

Director: "Foolishness. It's complete nonsense. I don't want anyone spreading such stuff in this city. You insinuate that cartoonists bring their characters to life on other planets? That's against the law of creation. Watch out what you say and fear His wrath."

Alan: "Sir, we do not fear Him; we trust His love, which is good towards us. And we know He's pleased with us."

Ryan: "Although man has the power to call things into being, it isn't the cartoonists who gave life to the people we met. Our writers and artists were only inspired to represent a people who already existed. Cartoons' heroes are humans like us and we testify to Earth that they're real because we've met them."

Zach: "It's no use guys. Remember, they're adults and have given up their dreams."

Director: "Their parents should take them home. Apparently, they're in good condition and need no medical assistance, except for their crazy story. You two, make sure to tell the parents of the other two to teach them to keep their mouths shut, lest other children believe and try something similar. Now everybody disperse before the media comes."

After having been in their respective homes, the children came together one starry night at Alan's place. Alan was lying on the roof of his house and watching the stars. One after the other, Ryan, Noah and Zach joined him. Without saying a word, they silently gazed at the sky for long. They noticed a galaxy, which glittered exceptionally and recognized it as the galaxy of their friends. Then they began to voice what their experience in Nootra produced in them.

Alan: "Now I know all things are possible."

Ryan: "When you believe."

Zach: "When your cause is just."

Noah: "When you love unreservedly."

Alan: "When you never give up your dream."

Ryan: "He has fulfilled our dreams, all we ever prayed for. Alan walked in space, Zach had his duel, Noah met her

superheroes and I received revelation of Him as the Man who defines all men.”

Zach: “Son Goku and all the heroes believe Him. Although they’re strong, they acknowledge Agape for what He is.”

Noah: “Even Vegeta recognizes His authority.”

Ryan: “J’onn J’onzz and Professor Xavier speak of Him with great admiration. How did they grasp that knowledge which many of us haven’t?”

Zach: “After this experience, I’ve realized Agape is the ultimate dream. He’s the hero. Who can fulfil dreams like He does? Who would do this for us if not Him? Who could beautifully bring our many dreams together in one like He did?”

Ryan: “I’m amazed at His love; He cares about our dreams. By placing everything good in us, He is pleased to see us acknowledge what He has become to us, and so we receive whatever we want. He brought us to experience what we’ve hoped for all our lives. Man is so lucky Agape is his champion.”

Alan: “But this isn’t luck for it’s not by chance that He is what He is. He’s faithful to Himself and we benefit from what He is, even His goodness.”

Noah: “All our dreams are in Him. This is where I see Denver, Rahan and Vegeta always. Like Iron Man, I acknowledge all the good things in me. I acknowledge that cartoon heroes are in me because He is in me and they are in Him.”

Zach: “Superman said man is the representative of Agape in the physical world. Wolverine said He has committed the building of our world to us. We’re the ones to bring forth the good and make this world a place of bliss. Son Goku entrusted me with this mission and I won’t fail him.”

Alan: “We’re all heroes and can bring about a change for the best in our world. Let’s promise that with our trust in the faith of Agape in us, we’ll make Earth the place of happiness for ourselves, our families, relatives, friends, neighbours and all of humanity.”

The four children brought their right hands together and made that promise to each other. After the solemn exercise, they continued.

Noah: “There’s a world where we, our loved ones and heroes live together. This is the place to be manifested, where all villains are good. We saw how Megatron allied himself with Optimus Prime and they won together. Galactus also did good when he prevented Son Goku from killing Broly. And Broly didn’t attack Son Goku when he changed into Legendary Super Saiyan in Galactus’ armour. The evil will soon vanish since it has already been defeated. The greatest enemy is despair. Rahan said we should think the best of and for everyone. I pray that all villains turn into good and become heroes.”

Ryan: “If we live to make this place the best place in the world, we will see appear even here, the place of the dreams of every man. And we shall see Him face-to-face. Invisible Woman said that would be fulfilling. Meeting Agape face-to-face is man’s ultimate.”

Alan: “Remember Captain Nootra’s words. We can experience satisfaction right now by knowing ourselves as we’re known, even as the Son. Goku said that’s our destiny.”

Noah: “What He asks us is to trust Him. It’s by trusting Him that we can experience the fullness of Him.”

Zach: “Archangel said our mission is to transform everything into good. We’ll turn every man, creature, speech, situation, matter, element, object and the whole world into good as we live fulfilled, entire, complete and satisfied knowing that Agape has been made to us everything good, just and beautiful.”

Alan: “I am righteous for my family.”

Ryan: “I believe for my friends.”

Noah: “I love for the Earth.”

Zach: “I live for humanity.”

Ryan: “I know myself as son of Agape.”

As the children were making these declarations, they heard beeps coming from Alan’s backpack.

Noah: "You'd better change your ringtone. I know you don't like mobiles but Al, you're using an old-fashioned stuff in a modern world."

Alan: "Check this out guys; it's coming from the comm. Batman gave me."

Noah: "You're bluffing. Come on, let me see."

Ryan: "Hey, it's really from the communicator."

Zach: "You think it's from Nootra?"

Alan: "There's only one way to find out. I think you have to press the blue button."

Noah: "What are you waiting for, Al? Press it."

Ryan: "Guys, are you sure you want to do this?"

Zach: "Where did your faith go all of a sudden?"

Noah eagerly stretched out a hand and pressed the button, and they all listened attentively. It was silent for a while and then there were some sound vibrations, and soon the link became good. Then they heard an audible voice at the other end of the line.

Voice (via comm.): "Alan, come in; it's Batman. Have you four arrived safely on Earth?"

Alan, Noah, Zach and Ryan remained speechless and stared at each other in bewilderment...⁵⁷

⁵⁷ To be continued in *Another Dimension 2: Worlds Collide*.

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Trunks and Vegeta appear in *Dragon Ball* (1984-1997), *Dragon Ball Z* (1989-1996) and *Dragon Ball GT* (1996-1997). *Dragon Ball Z* or *DBZ* is a close adaptation of the second portion of the *Dragon Ball* manga written and drawn by Akira Toriyama. It is adapted from the final twenty-six volumes of the manga series. It premiered in Japan on Fuji Television (April 26, 1989) and ran for 291 episodes until its conclusion (Jan. 31, 1996). It was developed by Toei Animation and directed by Daisuke Nishio. *Et comment:* (Fr.) certainly, absolutely.

Rahan is the hero of *Rahan, Le Fils des Ages Farouches*, a comic series that first appeared as part of *Pif Gadget*, and then published in albums of 2 to 4 complete stories. Initially written by Roger Lecureux and later by Jean-François Lecureux, most of the artwork is drawn by Andre Cheret, and others (Enrique Romero, Zam, DeHuescar). The animated series was developed by France Animation and aired on Canal+ (Nov. 1987).

Tarzan was created by Edgar Rice Burroughs and first appeared in *Tarzan of the Apes* by *All-Story Magazine* (Oct. 1912). The first book edition was published in 1914. *Samba et Leuk le Lièvre* is a TV series of 26 episodes created by Olivier Massart and aired from 30 April 1997 on France 2 in the programme 'La Planète de Donkey Kong'.

Mr. Fantastic (Reed Richard), Invisible Woman (Susan Storm), Human Torch (Johnny Storm), The Thing (Ben Grimm) form The Fantastic 4 or FF, a superhero team in Marvel Comics. The group debuted in *The Fantastic Four #1* (Nov. 1961) and was the first superhero team created by Stan Lee and Jack Kirby. Conan is the hero of *Conan, the Adventurer*. Spider-Man (Peter Parker, Spidey) is a Marvel Comics superhero. Created by Stan Lee and Steve Ditko, he first appeared in *Amazing Fantasy #15* (Aug. 1962).

Raditz, first seen in *Dragon Ball Z Chapter 1 (New Threat)*, is a Saiyan and older brother of Son Goku. Turles is the featured super villain in *Dragon Ball Z: The Tree of Might* (1990), *DBZ's 3rd Movie*. An upper class Saiyan, he bears a striking resemblance to Son Goku.

Victor von Doom (Doctor Doom) is a super villain in Marvel Comics. Created by Stan Lee and Jack Kirby, he first appeared in *Fantastic Four #5* (July 1962). Terrax, the Tamer is a super villain in Marvel Comics. He was created by Marv Wolfman and John Byrne and first appears in *Fantastic Four #211* (Oct. 1979).

The Power Cosmic is a source of limitless cosmic energy in the Marvel Universe. It first appears in *Fantastic Four #48* (Mar. 1966). Super Saiyan is an advanced transformation assumed by extraordinarily powerful members of the Saiyan race in *Dragon Ball*.

The Man of Steel is a 1986 comic book limited series featuring DC Comics' Superman. It was written and drawn by John Byrne and inked by Dick Giordano. Kryptonite is a material from the Superman mythos — the ore form of a radioactive element from Superman's home planet of Krypton.

Omega Supreme is an Autobot and a gigantic transformer. Shockwave appears in *The Transformers*. Devastator is the combined form of the Constructicons in *The Transformers*. Thundercracker, Skywarp, and Blitzwing are Decepticons in *The Transformers*.

The Flash is a name shared by several superheroes in DC Comics. Created by Gardner Fox and Harry Lampert, the original Flash first appeared in *Flash Comics #1* (Jan. 1940). Vibranium, a metal in the Marvel Universe, was created by Stan Lee and John Romita (*Daredevil* #13, Feb. 1966).

Thor (son of Odin, Asgardian) is a Marvel Comics superhero created by Stan Lee, Larry Lieber & Jack Kirby (*Journey into Mystery* #83, Aug. 1962) Mjolnir, Thor's hammer, was created by Stan Lee, Jack Kirby and Joe Sinnott.

To be continued in *Another Dimension 2 Worlds Collide*.

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'God was in Christ, reconciling the world unto Himself, not imputing their trespasses unto them' 2Cor. 5:19.

My dream is the fulfillment of the Father's will in 1Tim 2:3-4: 'God our Saviour will have all men to be saved and to come unto the knowledge of the truth.' All men are in Christ.

I have put my trust in the love of God toward me.

Welcome to the world of your
wildest dreams.



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